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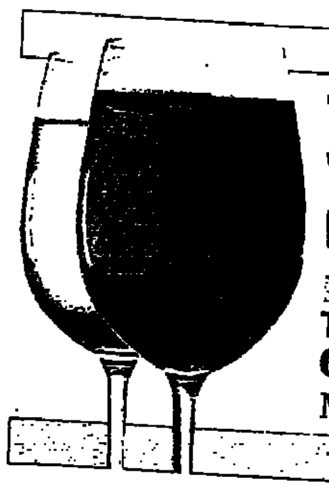

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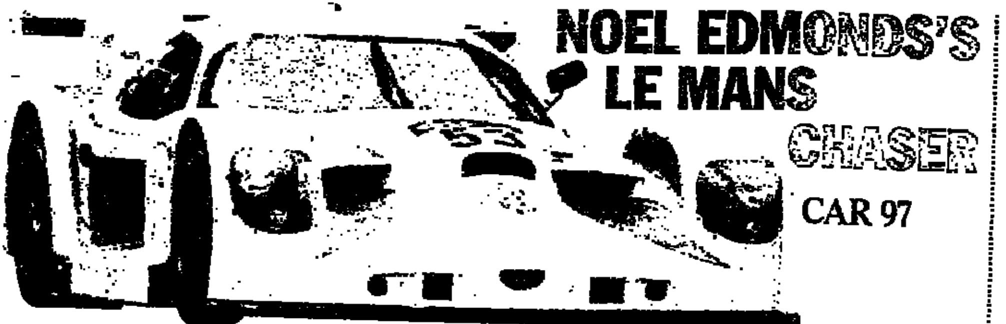

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George Medal for Lisa Potts and bravery awards for Philip Lawrence and teachers of Dunblane

Honours for courage of school staff

By Adrian Lee, Shirley English and Arthur Leathley

George Medal: second highest civilian award

FIVE school workers who ignored the risks to themselves to protect children coming under attack are honoured for their courage today — two of them posthumously.

Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who shielded a group of children from a man with a machete, is awarded the George Medal — Britain's second highest civilian honour for bravery.

Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster stabbed to death trying to save a pupil from a street gang, is awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

And three teachers shot in the Dunblane massacre 15 months ago are awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. Gwen Mayor was killed by Thomas Hamilton along with 16 of her class of six-year-olds. Her colleagues Eileen Harrild and Mary Blake, who are also recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours today, were each shot four times and neither has yet returned to work.

Asked yesterday why the five had received different awards, a Downing Street spokesman said: "The committee looked at each set of circumstances, they were all tragic and each called for bravery. The degree of bravery shown was considered in a very comprehensive way, and they decided these were appropriate awards in respect of each set of circumstances."

Miss Potts, 22, hid children under her skirt when Horrett Campbell ran amok during a teddy bears' picnic at St Luke's infant school, Wolverhampton, last summer, slashing at three- and four-year-olds at random. She was severely injured in the attack, but still managed to pull the children indoors to safety and then returned to confront Campbell to save another child.

The judge at Campbell's trial said that he intended to make sure that her "astonishing courage" was formally recognised. But yesterday, Miss Potts said that she was amazed to have been honoured. "I can't believe it. I wasn't thinking about being brave, all I was thinking about was the children."

Mr Lawrence, 48, is posthumously awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for saving a 13-year-old pupil from attack by a gang outside St George's Roman Catholic School in Maida Vale. As the youths chased the boy to the front of the school, hit him on the head with a metal bar and threatened him with knives, Mr Lawrence intervened, and was stabbed as the gang ran away.

The three other honoured teachers are commended "for bravery at Dunblane Primary School on Marcy 13, 1996". Mrs Blake, a special needs teacher who was shot in the legs and head, said yesterday: "I had no idea we would even be considered for something like this. So when I found out about ten days ago I just started to cry. I felt very honoured and delighted, but at the same time very sad for the reasons I was receiving it."

Today's honours list, which was largely compiled by John Major, also includes the usual clutch of awards for sportsmen, business and the arts. The artist David Hockney becomes a Companion of Honour and the jazz singer Cleo Laine a dame. Life peerages are awarded to Sir Peter Levene , Mr Major's former efficiency adviser, Field Marshall Sir Peter Inge, former Chief of the Defence Staff, and Sir Colin Cowdrey, the former England cricket captain who is now chairman of the International Cricket Council. The present England captain, Michael Atherton is appointed OBE.

New knights include the actor Donald Sinden, playwright Tom Stoppard, and yachtsman Chay Blyth, while the fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and Nick Park, creator of Wallace and Gromit, are appointed CBE.

List in full, pages 8-10
Business honours, page 25
Tribute to Cowdrey, page 48

STEVE HILL

Lisa Potts yesterday: "I can't believe it. I wasn't thinking about being brave, all I was thinking about was the children"

Opinion leaders think system is outdated

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

AN overwhelming number of Britain's opinion leaders believe the honours system urgently needs reform.

They believe the present system places too much patronage in the the hands of the Prime Minister, and most of them want honours to be awarded by a new independent commission.

Most of the 100 people surveyed, including two government ministers, 20 peers and MPs, a permanent secretary and 50 chief executives, managing directors, chief economists and partners from top City firms, also believe it is now time to change the name of the British Empire Medal to something representing more modern times.

The survey for *The Times* by Opinion Leader Research also reveals that most of those interviewed consider the present system outdated.

Tony Blair has already made clear that he wants to overhaul the system and is expected to call for a review when he has a clearer idea of the best way forward.

According to the survey, 60 per cent of opinion leaders also think it "grossly unfair" that, while the wife of a peer or knight is automatically styled Lady, the husband of a woman who becomes a working peer or Dame receives no title. About 22 per cent disagreed, and 18 per cent had no views.

In the survey, conducted last week, about 71 per cent called for the system to be urgently reformed, while 21 per cent preferred that it be left alone. Eight per cent had no view.Similarly, 68 per cent said the honours system placed too much patronage in the hands of the Prime Minister compared to the 17 per cent who disagreed. Some 68 per cent also believed the British Empire medals should be replaced with a new honour, while 23 per cent opposed the idea and 9 per cent had no views. Of those who called for its replacement, 36 per cent suggested the new medal should be called the Order of Great Britain or the Order of the British Isles, while 20 per cent supported a Citizen's or Citizenship Award, 12 per cent a Society or Community Award, 12 per cent the Order of the Commonwealth and 8 per cent the Order of the United Kingdom. Twelve per cent were undecided.

About 59 per cent supported an independent Honours Commission, 26 per cent disagreed, and 15 per cent had no views.

Adhering to Labour policy since the Wilson era, Mr Blair vetoed political honours in yesterday's list, which was prepared under John Major's premiership. A total of 45 honours were rejected. In future the Prime Minister wants teachers, health workers and police to be rewarded ahead of long-serving civil servants.

Stores ban the sale of alcopops

Major store chains have banned the sale of alcopops and called on other major retailers to do the same. The Co-op, Iceland stores, and the United Northwest group have all imposed the ban.

Tony Blair yesterday signalled a crackdown on manufacturers who tempt underage drinkers..........Page 2

Stonehenge plan

A £44million scheme to conserve Stonehenge and protect it from tourists and traffic by rerouting a major road has been rejected by the Millennium Commission..........Page 5

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Minister shocked by poor school standards

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

HALF of all state schools are under-performing, the minister responsible for school standards said yesterday.

Stephen Byers, in an interview with *The Times*, said he had been shocked by the extent of under-achievement in schools. "The standards debate has been hijacked by 300-400 failing schools when the real issue concerns perhaps 50 per cent which are not doing enough with the pupils they are responsible for."

His estimate is higher than that given by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, earlier this year. He said in his annual report that standards needed to rise in half of all primary schools but only two-fifths of the secondary sector. Conservative ministers shied away from quantifying under-achievement.

Mr Byers said the 2 per cent of schools failing inspections were often "absolutely appalling", but no Government had tackled the much larger group that needed to improve. "These schools are not failing, they are not even seriously weak, they are just getting by. But if we are going to hit our targets and be serious about doing something worthwhile, these are the schools that matter."

Mr Byers described a weekend spent reading the reports of all 218 failing schools as "the most depressing of my political life". But he said that raising standards in the half of schools causing concern was the main challenge to be addressed in next month's White Paper.

The comments brought immediate condemnation from classroom teachers' unions. Nigel de Gruchy, the General Secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said he was "staggered" by the claim that half of all schools were underperforming. He said: "Education is an area in which you can never achieve perfection."

Doug McAvoy, the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said schools lacked the support necessary to improve.

But David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said Mr Byers had identified the right target. "These schools are providing a perfectly reasonable standard of education for their children, but they could improve even more."

Ministers are putting the finishing touches to a White Paper, to be published in early July, which will address the problem of low expectations. Authorities will be required to set tough targets for all their schools.

In addition, the Government is considering changes to the appraisal of teachers, judging them partly by their pupils' results. Consistently poor results would become a reason for instigating the fast-track dismissal procedures to be discussed with employers.

Byers: reports on failures "depressing reading"

Police could face random drug tests

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

POLICE chiefs are studying plans for the introduction of random drug testing in their forces.

Guidelines have been sent by the Association of Police Officers to all 43 forces in England and Wales, *The Times* has learnt. The 60-page document details the equipment required for drug tests and gives advice on the legal problems that the introduction of widespread testing would bring.

The move comes as senior ranks acknowledge that they are recruiting from a generation where drug use is rife. One recent survey showed that a third of all teenagers in Britain had tried drugs — the highest percentage in the European Union.

Police fear that officers breaking the law in this way could be open to corruption and blackmail. There have been several cases where officers inolved in raids have kept drugs for their personal use or started dealing.

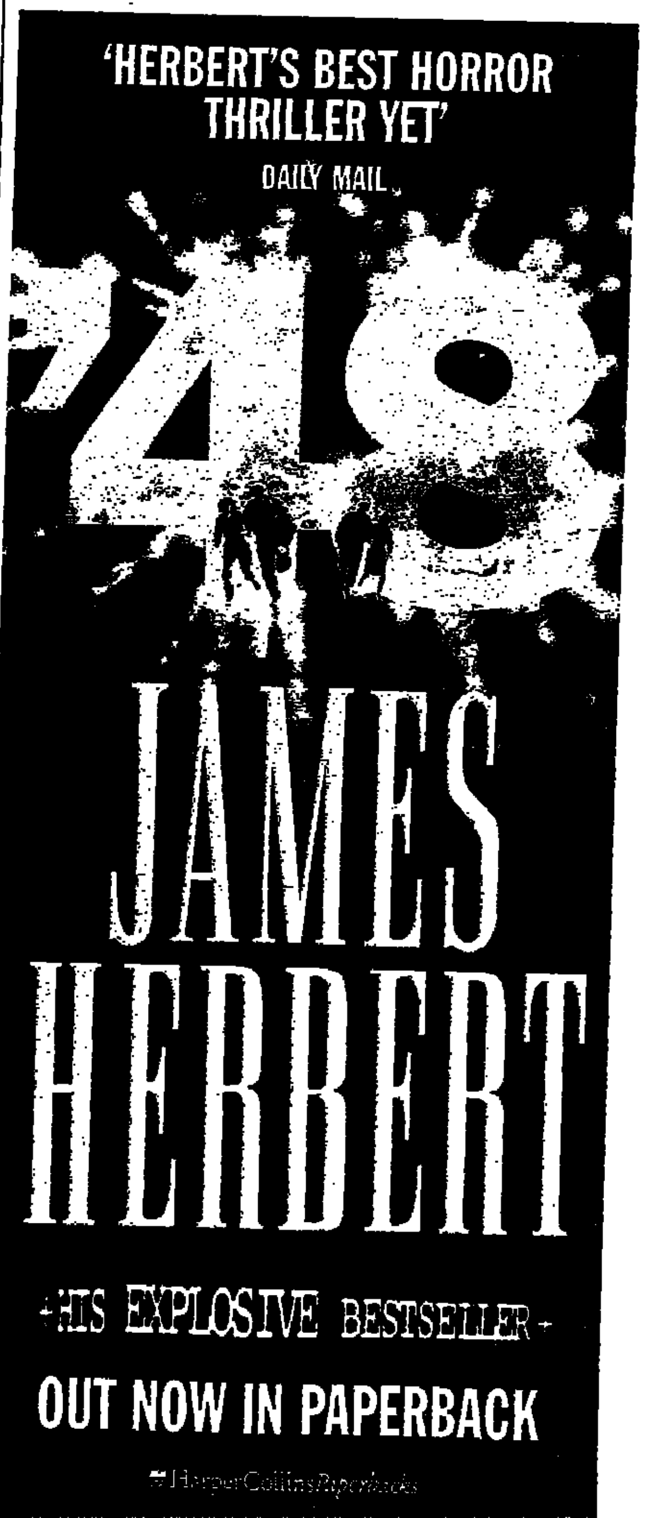
Random tests are already carried out by the Army, the Royal Navy, prisons, public schools, businesses, airlines, rail and shipping companies. Last year the Army carried out 20,000 and recently 12 soldiers from the Black Watch were sacked for taking soft drugs. Testing has also revealed drug taking within the Household Cavalry.

In the United States, tests on police officers are widely used. A computer picks out a payroll number and the officer is required to give a blood or urine specimen. Some forces now also test using a hair from the scalp. Hair holds drug traces much longer.

Dr Ian Oliver, the Chief Constable of Grampian, has said that he will introduce random testing but it has not begun yet.

Officers who are caught using drugs generally leave quietly but cases include a young London officer who left a few weeks ago after being arrested off-duty taking cocaine outside a Brighton club. Another Metropolitan police officer was arrested last year as visited a drug dealer to buy cannabis.

The guidance will be unveiled at a national police drugs conference next week chaired by Keith Hellawell, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire. He said yesterday: D" It is a big issue for society and we are only just on the fringes of it."



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OBITUARIES 23
SIMON JENKINS 20
BUSINESS NEWS.......25-28
WEEKEND MONEY..29-41
SPORT..........................42-48
GARDENING: WEEKEND4-6
PROPERTY: WEEKEND7-9, 11
TRAVEL: WEEKEND. 15-24

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YOURS FOR $22 MILLION: INSIDE MIKE TYSON'S HOUSE

MPs urge Straw to overhaul rape law

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW is under pressure to overhaul the way rape cases are dealt with by the courts in an attempt to prevent women's previous sexual experience being revealed.

More than 100 MPs have signed a Commons motion calling for sweeping changes to court procedures in rape cases and the creation of a new offence to deal with "date rape".

The Home Office is currently carrying out a study into how rape cases are dealt with from the moment they are reported to the end of a trial. It is looking at how each stage of the criminal justice system deals with rape cases amid concern that the number of convictions has dropped in spite of a rise in the number of reported rapes.

Last year reported rapes rose to 5,700 but less than a third resulted in a prosecution, and only about one in ten of them ended in a conviction. In the early 1980s the conviction rate was as high as one in three.

The Commons motion demands an end to the right of an accused rapist to cross-examine the victim and restricts a multiple cross-examination of a woman in cases where there is more than one defendant. Officials at the Home Office are examining whether restrictions could be imposed on accused rapists conducting their own defence. This follows the case of Julia Mason, who was questioned for six days by her attacker — who appeared in the same clothes he wore during the attack.

The motion also calls for identity parades to be conducted behind mirror glass in an attempt to avoid upsetting women and preventing intimidation. Jill Saward, the victim in the Ealing vicarage rape, said: "I want the Government to take notice of the strength of support in the Commons for reform of the rape laws, and I hope we soon see a real difference being made to the way rape victims are treated."

Miss Saward said reform of laws and court procedures involving rape cases was long overdue. "Victims of rape have a very bad deal in court. The police have done a lot to encourage women to report rape. It is the court system that has not changed enough.

"Being raped is bad enough but having to go to court is like having to undergo the whole thing again."

Her most controversial proposal would create a new offence to deal with date rape, and would carry a maximum five-year jail sentence. She said: "It would deal with all the grey areas where maybe a woman said 'no' but everthing else including the mood music were saying 'yes". It would deal with those cases where consent had not be obtained but where the sexual act was not premeditated and is not violent."

Miss Saward was speaking on the eve of a conference on rape and the criminal justice system to be held in London. Delegates at today's conference will hear Alice Vachss, a US attorney who made her reputation by taking "unprosecutable" cases involving unsypmathetic victims, want special prosecutors to take rape cases in court.

☐ A national helpline for victims of crime is to be set up, Mr Straw said yesterday. The Government is giving an extra £1m to the charity Victim Support, part of which will fund the helpline. It will be operated by unpaid volunteers working from Victim Support's national headquarters in southwest London. The helpline will operate only a few hours each day day but if demand exists it will become a 24-hour service.

Stores put ban on alcopops to reduce underage drinking

By Chris Ayres

LEADING store chains yesterday banned the sale of alcopops and called on other retailers to do the same.

The Co-op, Iceland stores, and the United Northwest group said they would be clearing the shelves in a total of more than 2,000 shops.

The move came on the day that the Prime Minister signalled a crackdown on manufacturers who tempt underage drinkers. It also came the day after the Health Secretary launched a strong attack on alcopops manufacturers, saying they were deliberately trying to get children addicted to alcohol.

Bill Shannon, head of the Co-op's buying and marketing team, said: "As responsible retailers, we feel the time has come to act, given the concern expressed by our own customers, pressure groups and the Government.

"We believe these drinks are designed specifically to appeal to young people and are, in fact, largely consumed by under-18s who cannot legally buy them."

Mr Shannon also criticised the self-policing of drinks manufacturers, carried out by the industry-funded Portman Group, saying: "It is inadequate and ultimately powerless to stop such drinks coming onto the market."

Malcolm Walker, the chairman of Iceland, said the move was prompted by customer concern. "Whilst commercially this decision will hurt, as a family company we must act responsible and reflect the views of our customers.

"There is definite evidence that these drinks are encouraging under age drinking — this can't be tolerated.

"We very much hope that our action will motivate other retailers to do likewise and would ask manufacturers of these products to consider their community obligations."

The store, which stocks two brands of alcopops in six flavours, will begin clearing its shelves of the drinks on Monday at all its 770 stores.

A United Northwest spokesman said: "We are the first store taking alcopops off our shelves. The rest of the cooperatives will start acting on Monday. We are the country's third largest Co-op and this is a very significant addition."

The move will add to the pressure on drinks manufacturers, which earn an estimated £250 million a year in alcopops sales, to stop producing the drinks or introduce stricter controls on their sale.

But Bass, which produces two-thirds of all alcopops, including Hooper's Hooch and Red, reacted angrily to the ban. "We are disappointed with the Co-op's actions and totally disagree with their comments regarding alcopops.

"Under-age drinking will not be eradicated by arbitrarily targeting or demonising popular drinks which are enjoyed responsibly by the vast majority of comsumers."

Tesco, Sainsbury's and Safeway's rejected the C-op call and refused to remove alcopops from their shelves. However, all three retailers said they were introducing tough new measures to combat the selling of alcohol to under-18s.

John Gildersleeve, a director of Tesco, said: "After listening to our customers, it is clear the majority do not favour a total ban.

"However, they do want further action."

Tesco is demanding that alcopops carry stronger warning labels and it has banned all in-store alcopops promotions. "This new package will send a clear message to the industry that we will not tolerate the products in our stores if they are targeted at children," Mr Gildersleeve added.

Asda said it was meeting with suppliers to insist on stricter control of marketing and labelling of the products. Sainsbury is putting stickers over the barcodes of alcopops to remind staff to check the customer's age, and Safeway's is banning all alcopops promotions.

A spokeswoman for J Sainsbury said: "We don't make moral decisions on behalf of our customers. Where there is a demand for a product, we believe customers should have a choice."

The hirsute Kenneth Clarke believes that William Hague, his balding rival is younger only on paper

Hague may be the junior but Clarke's still young at heart

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

KENNETH CLARKE, the hirsute elder statesman of the Tory leadership contest, yesterday sought to portray the young pretender William Hague as a balding fogey who was old before his time.

The former chancellor, 56, attacked his principal rival's image which has been so carefully honed by communications specialists. As the gloves came off in the Tory leadership contest Mr Clarke branded Mr Hague, who at 36 is 20 years his junior, as "completely woolly", on policy, divisive over Europe, and a frump to boot who was only younger on paper.

While Mr Clarke attempted to demolish the "skip-a-generation" argument, which has seen Mr Hague become the bookmakers' favourite, Barnness Thatcher has decided not to intervene in the leadership contest. She has rejected pleas from supporters of John Redwood for an eve of poll endorsement.

Mr Clarke, who is Lady Thatcher's least preferred candidate, rejected the notion that the big attraction to Tory MPs in next Tuesday's ballot was that Mr Hague would be only 41 at the next election in 2002.

"Younger?" he said. "It says so on his birth certificate. I agree. But I am not sure he is otherwise."

In an interview in *The Scotsman* he said "I will be only 61", making clear that, by world standards, it was still a relatively junior age to be Prime Minister. Mr Hague has pledged to exploit his so called youth appeal.

Talks fail to resolve railway dispute

By Arthur Leathley
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of rail travellers in the South East face continued disruption today with almost one in three trains likely to be cancelled because of industrial action by drivers.

Connex South Central expects to cancel 435 trains from Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire into Victoria and London Bridge as members of the drivers' union Aslef continue a ban on overtime and rest-day working. A further 179 trains will complete only part of their journeys because of the action over a restructuring deal involving pay, hours and working practices.

Many commuters were delayed yesterday as one in five trains — a total of 334 — were cancelled in the most extensive action to trouble the newly privatised rail companies. Talks broke up without agreement yesterday but union leaders will consider new proposals put forward by management. Special trains planned for tomorrow's London to Brighton bicycle ride will be cancelled.

The company faces the threat of further industrial action from train guards belonging to the Rail Maritime and Transport Union. Union members at Eastbourne are pressing for a ballot on strikes in protest at assaults on staff. The company said it had launched a security operation to tackle the assaults but the union said a request for a risk assessment has been turned down.

The dispute comes as the company follows other train operators that have introduced new working arrangements after privatisation. Most agreements have been reached without industrial action, surprising analysts who expected rail unions to flex their muscles with the break-up of the British Rail management structure.

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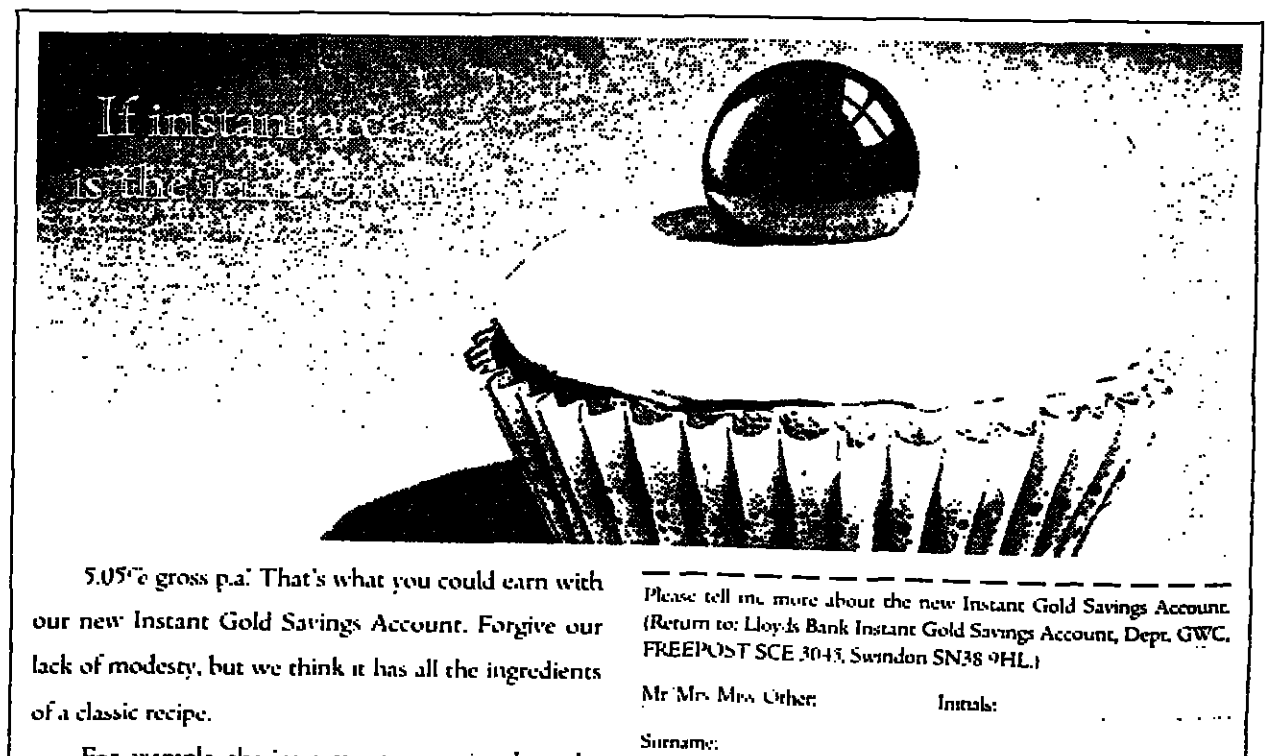

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Fantasy life involved obsession with military affairs, tales of service in the Army and vandalism

Bored guard started blaze that killed woman firefighter

By Kathryn Knight

A SECURITY guard who lived in a fantasy world set fire to a store in Bristol to relieve his boredom. The blaze claimed the life of a 21-year-old woman, the first female firefighter to die in service.

Yesterday, Martin Cody was convicted of the manslaughter of Fleur Lombard, who died in a fireball that burnt off her protective clothing and breathing apparatus. He was also found guilty of deliberately setting fire to Leo's supermarket in Staple Hill on his first nightshift on February 4 last year.

The court was told that Miss Lombard had died doing the job she loved. She had just completed her two-year probationary period with Avon Fire Brigade and had joined the Blue Watch at Speedwell Fire Station, based minutes from the store.

The vivacious young woman had established herself as an integral part of the watch, although one of only eight women among Avon's 700 firefighters. She had been awarded a Silver Axe as the best recruit of her intake.

Cody: sentencing will take place in September

During the trial at Exeter Crown Court, which began on June 4, the jury were told of the events that led to Miss Lombard's death. Hours before he started the blaze, Cody arrived for duty wearing a jacket covered with badges, American chevrons and police medals over his security guard uniform.

Paul Chadd, for the prosecution, told the jury, which included eight women, that before the fire Cody had said he was bored and wanted something exciting to happen. It was his first day on duty at the two-storey building, where he told Louise Mains, a shop assistant: "This is boring, I wish something exciting would happen." About an hour later, smoke began to fill the store rapidly, Mr Chadd said.

Cody had started the blaze in packing materials in the meat preparation room in the warehouse. He was the only person in uniform in the store, where he was twice seen going through swing doors towards the warehouse — an area where he was not required to go and should not have been.

Afterwards, Cody had seemed seemed "happy": a witness had seen him punching downwards with his clenched fist, shouting "Yes" in a gesture like a "footballer who had just scored a goal". Within minutes of the recovery of Miss Lombard's body, Cody had telephoned a colleague at the security firm to tell him about the fire. He had added: "It is a good one, it is total."

Detectives had arreested Cody two days later, when they become suspicious about his unusual and erratic behaviour after the fire.

Firefighters tackling the Bristol supermarket blaze

Cody, a loner who was extensively bullied at school, had built up a bizarre fantasy world. He became obsessed with military affairs at a young age and built up a collection of military badges, sewing them to his jackets and pyjamas, and telling colleagues he was in the Army, working as a corporal in charge of "squaddies", or on an undercover assignment.

During his school years a number of unexplained small fires broke out in bins, waste piles and behind sheds, often when he was in the vicinity. After leaving school he went into a string of jobs as a security guard which coincided with minor incidents, such as apparent acts of vandalism, or repeated emergency service call-outs.

His final act of vandalism was to take a young woman's life, the court was told. After his arrest, Cody had continued his day-dreaming, telling detectives he would have liked to join the police as a member of the tactical firearms unit.

Yesterday Cody, from Bristol, stared ahead impassively as Mr Justice Tuckey said that sentencing would be adjourned until September 1 for pre-sentence reports, including medical reports. His trial was moved to Exeter from Bristol because of the level of publicity surrounding Miss Lombard's death.

Outside the court her parents, Roger and Jane Lombard, spoke of their relief that the trial was over. The couple had chosen not to attend the whole trial but had spent the time in Cornwall, visiting the Church of Saint Enodoc at Trebetheric, where their daughter's ashes are buried.

"It is an area she was very fond of and people who know it will understand why we decided her ashes should be there," Mr Lombard said.

"We are all extremely proud of her. She died doing what she wanted to do. We are very pleased with the verdict, and pleased with the implication that this young man may get psychiatric help. If this is the way the sentencing comes out, it would be a good thing."

Mrs Lombard said: "I never wanted Fleur to join the service. But it is what she wanted to do. She knew the risks."

Fleur Lombard was said by her parents to have died doing what she wanted to do

'As soon as we laid her down, I heard someone say: she's gone'

By Kathryn Knight

JURORS wept as they heard the harrowing details of Fleur Lombard's final minutes. Fireman Robert Seaman, who had entered the burning building with Miss Lombard, told the court of his desperate attempt to find her after losing contact with her in the pitch black, smoke-filled building.

She had shouted "Evacuate" to her colleagues moments before she was engulfed in a fireball, the court was told. The two, both wearing breathing apparatus and carrying a guideline, fought through intense smoke searching for anyone stranded inside. They had crawled along through searing heat as explosions sounded over their heads until Mr Seaman told his partner that they would have to leave.

"Both the heat and noise had increased dramatically and I heard Fleur shout 'Evacuate.' We turned round, which made me the lead person. We maintained physical contact, holding on to each other's breathing apparatus straps. I looked up and could see the flames above me," Mr Seaman said.

They started to crawl back but broke into a trot as the explosions increased and Miss Lombard overtook him. Mr Seaman said he could not remember if he had blacked out, but found himself on the floor with no sign of Miss Lombard.

Assuming she had made her way out he left the building, to be told by waiting firefighters that Miss Lombard had not emerged. In fact, she had been caught in a "flash-over", a rogue sheet of flame rushing through the building. The crew ran inside to find Miss Lombard kneeling with her head towards the wall, Mr Seaman said.

As his colleagues sprayed jets, he pulled her back by the shoulders. "Her breathing apparatus just fell off," he said. "I could not see her mask or helmet and her tunic was just not there from the chest level down to her knees."

Mr Seaman helped to carry Miss Lombard to the store entrance, where he collapsed. He was later treated for minor burns to his back, ears and arm.

Patrick Foley, who was with the hose team and returned with rescuers to find Miss Lombard, told how he had helped to rescue Miss Lombard's body.

"I could see only the remains of clothing on her body. I could not see her mask or helmet. As soon as we laid her down, I heard someone say, 'She's gone.'" Miss Lombard was dead on arrival at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol.

More than 60 firefighters took four hours to control the blaze, which caused damage estimated at £2 million and destroyed the building.

A black granite memorial to Miss Lombard stands outside the store, which was rebuilt a year after the fire. The memorial plaque contains brief details of her death and the inscription: "She was an inspiration to us all."

Detective Sergeant Steve Gittens, a senior police investigator, said after the verdict that it had been a "very emotional case. A lot of effort went into the case and we are very pleased at the outcome."

Priest forgives student who nearly killed him

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

A PRIEST stabbed in the back by a parishioner publicly forgave his attacker last night as the man was sent to a secure psychiatric unit.

Father Edward Carroll, 65, escaped death after the 8in blade went within less than half an inch of his aorta, the Old Bailey was told. "If anyone deserved divine intervention, it was this good man," said Helena Kennedy, QC, in mitigation for Nicholas Top.

But even with the knife up to its hilt in his back, the Roman Catholic priest said he felt calm and at peace, and bore no animosity towards his attacker. Last night Father Carroll, of the Sacred Heart church in Islington, who needed a week in hospital and two months' recuperation, said he felt himself forgive Top as he stood in his presbytery kitchen with the knife protruding from his back.

"There was no sense of anger or revenge," he said. "Without any effort on my part, forgiveness was there."

The priest knew that Top, 27, a French student from a Catholic family, suffered from mental illness, although it had never manifested itself before. He had met him at meetings held for people interested in Catholicism.

He had let the student in after he had frantically rung the bell, saying he was possessed. Once inside, he told Father Carroll: "I want the sacred blood. Give me the sacred blood. I am possessed. Give me the precious blood. This is the night the anti-Christ comes. This is the night of the curse."

Brian Altman, for the prosecution, said: "Father Carroll told him he was not in any state to receive communion, but he would give him an appropriate blessing."

As he looked for a blessing, Top asked for a glass of water. Once in the kitchen he asked for a slice of bread and appeared calm. As the priest went to get butter from the fridge, "he felt a solid blow in the back — and a numbness".

His attacker went to a friend's home and rang the police, telling them he thought he had killed the priest. The court was told that Top, diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, had been taking medication and functioning well.

Carroll: felt calm, even with a knife in his back

But he became ill and delusional early last year and more chaotic in taking medication. "He thought he was being pursued by evil forces," Miss Kennedy said.

Top, of Holloway, north London, admitted wounding. Judge Richard Hutchinson told him that, although his moral guilt was little because of his illness, the public must be protected. He sent him to the secure unit of Chase Farm hospital in Enfield, north London, indefinitely. "It means that you will be subject to review and cannot be released until it is safe to do so," he said.

Father Carroll, described in court as being "renowned as an incredible and compassionate man and for his pastoral care", said yesterday: "If he knocked on the door tonight I would invite him in, but I would not let him into the kitchen again," he said, describing how he had been threatened before by other parishioners.

"In a previous parish I was threatened by a man who said he had a gun. I said: 'Go on, shoot me.' The gun turned out to be a cigarette lighter." The incident had not tested his faith at all, he added.

But he is still physically weak and cannot walk around much. He spends more time indoors as a result. Some wound pain may not entirely settle, the court was told.

Parker Bowles may face charges

By Joanna Bale

CHARGES over the head-on car crash between Camilla Parker Bowles and an interior designer have not been ruled out, Wiltshire police said yesterday.

Inspector Geoffrey Hicks said that officers were investigating the cause of the accident and the actions of Mrs Parker Bowles, who left the scene of the crash to summon help on her mobile telephone.

He said: "At this stage we are not saying 'yes' or 'no' to charges. The explanation Mrs Parker Bowles has given for leaving is that the area where the accident took place was a poor radio signal and, because it was urgent, she walked to higher ground to make the call. Because she is classed as a security risk she had to contact Highgrove or security officers there."

Mrs Parker Bowles suffered a minor head injury when her Ford Mondeo collided with a Volvo driven by Carolyn Melville-Smith on a narrow country lane four miles from Highgrove, the Prince of Wales's home, on Wednesday evening. Ms Melville-Smith, 53, was briefly trapped in her car, which landed on its side in a ditch.

Pets suffer too as more people become allergic to modern life

By Glen Owen

MORE than half the population will soon suffer from allergies, with even the household pet falling victim, a conference was told yesterday.

The British Allergy Foundation told a meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine that 35 per cent of the population suffers from allergic reactions to food, pets, insects, dust or pollen, with symptoms ranging from runny eyes to swollen joints and even suffocation. Muriel Stevens, chief executive of the Foundation, said that the numbers were rising.

"These reactions are increasing dramatically, and we think that in the very near future more than one in two people will be affected. It is important people realise the scale of the problem," she said.

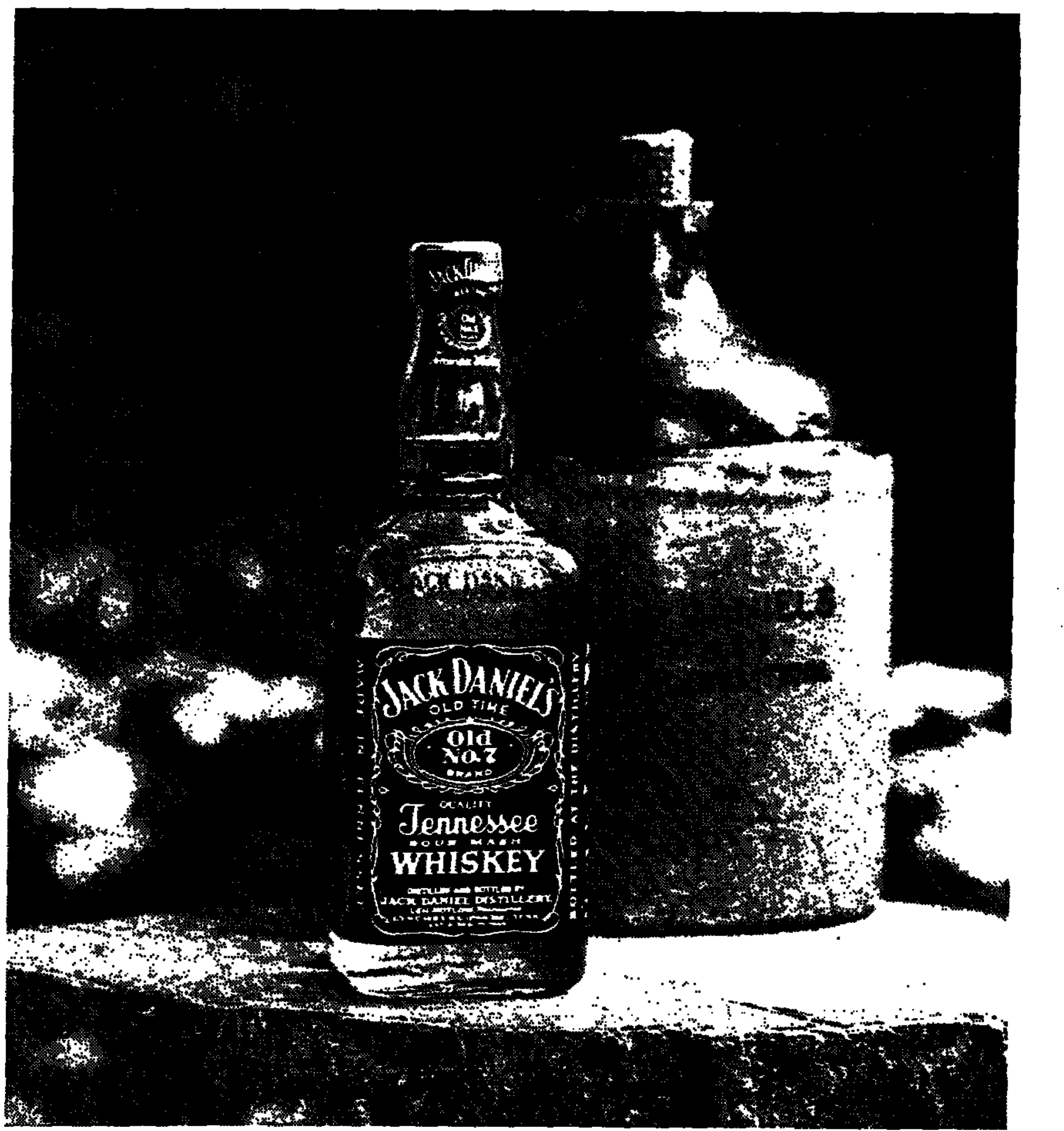
Paul Oliver Smith, a vet, told the meeting that pets were not only triggering reactions in human beings, they were also being affected by us. He said some of the symptoms of affliction — bloating, nausea, vomiting and irritated skin — were now being seen in household animals. "I have seen every human symptom of reaction repeated in pets, except for the most extreme reaction, suffocation.

"In reverse, pets are generating allergies in us. Broody women clutching animals when they want to get pregnant are building allergies into that pregnancy. When the child is born it is more likely to be allergic to pets and other triggers. Also, we think that now women are waiting longer to have children they are coming into contact with more allergens than they used to, which is having an effect on their offspring."

A research paper presented to the conference suggested that both pets and human beings were being sensitised by an increase in pollution, and cited studies linking increased rates of asthma to traffic emissions. It also blamed indoor pollution, arguing that changes in housing habits over the past 40 years had nurtured allergens. Wall-to-wall carpeting and more humid indoor climates had encouraged house dust mites, which could trigger reactions.

The meeting also heard that people were becoming increasingly prone to nut allergies, with children particularly vulnerable. It said more than 100,000 children were now affected in Britain.

The parents of one sufferer, six-year-old Joshua Day, said the reactions could be extreme. "If he eats a peanut he could die," said his father, Vic. "He has to take adrenaline around with him in case he eats one by accident and has to inject himself to reverse the swelling."



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Blair takes question time to the heart of Middle England

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

IAN HODGSON

Tony Blair in Worcester's Guildhall yesterday. "Members of the public often ask better questions than Tory MPs," a government source said

TONY BLAIR travelled to the heart of Middle England yesterday for the first of his "people's question time" sessions.

In the gilded splendour of Worcester's Guildhall, the Prime Minister spent an hour answering questions on law and order issues from an invited audience representing the local community. In what amounted more to an exchange of views rather than a tough public interrogation, *Mr Blair faced 23 questions* from the 130-strong audience of law and order professionals and community groups.

He used the occasion to signal a crackdown on the consumption of alcopop drinks by underage teenagers. In response to a question about the dangers of alcopop abuse, Mr Blair said the Government had set up a ministerial inquiry into the problem headed by Jack *Straw, the Home Secretary.* Ministers are planning to meet the drinks industry and *other interested groups* to discuss the issue.

Mr Blair also announced plans to give fresh powers to the courts to force young vandals to repair damage they have caused and pledged new moves to improve the protection of vulnerable witnesses.

The question-and-answer sessions, to be held each month in different parts of the country, are designed to allow *ordinary people to hold the* Prime Minister to account, senior government sources said.

They said Mr Blair had more time to spend in the country because he had to face formal questions in the Commons only once a week. "Members of the public often ask better questions than Tory MPs," the source said.

Government officials were keen to emphasise that the *invited audience had been* selected by local government offices in the West Midlands *and by the police. They insist*ed that the Labour Party had not been involved. Half the audience were professionals who work in law and order, such as police, magistrates, court officials, and the Crown Prosecution Service. The rest were members of the local community, including businessmen, victim support groups, tenants' associations, youth groups and pressure *groups.*

Mr Blair answered questions on subjects from youth crime, drug abuse and domestic violence to aggressive begging. Looking relaxed and without his jacket, Mr Blair chaired the event himself with David Blakey, the West Mercia Chief Constable. The session was similar to those Mr Blair held during the election campaign. He took three questions in a row before answering them one at a time. Unlike the House of Commons, this meant the Prime Minister had time to consider his answers.

None of the questions could be described as hostile. Questioners were more concerned to ask about Labour policies, the forthcoming Crime and Disorder Bill, and how much funding the Government was prepared to devote to law and order.

All members of the audience were given an address to write to if they had not had time to ask a question and Mr Blair promised a reply would be sent.

Afterwards members of the audience felt the event had been more of an opportunity for an exchange of views rather than a gruelling session to hold the Prime Minister to account. Larry Purnell, an A-level student at Worcester Sixth Form College, said: "There should have been a smaller group so we could have had a more confrontational discussion. That would have been better."

Claire Maidment said the session had been better than Commons question time because "you at least get his thoughts directly". But she added: "He didn't really open up on a number of things." Dina Holder, a Youth Justice manager, had reservations. "It is a very good idea in terms of public relations to go for unscripted questions because he is able to avoid the really difficult questions," she said. "That gives him the ability not to say an awful lot but sell himself very well. He came across well, as a nice guy, very principled."

☐ Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, is to scrap the register of names for appointment to Welsh quangos. Mr Davies is determined to end the "jobs for the boys" culture in Wales despite attempts by a number of officials in departments across Whitehall to block the plan. Mr Davies said that in future all posts would be advertised widely and candidates would be appointed strictly on merit.

Boys accused of throwing slab at driver are freed

BY RICHARD FORD AND MARK HENDERSON

TWO teenage boys accused of dropping a concrete block through a car windscreen and seriously injuring its driver walked free from court yesterday after a stipendiary magistrate ruled that there was insufficient evidence to send them for trial.

The boys, aged 14 and 15, were alleged to have thrown a 12in square concrete slab, weighing 50lb, from a bridge over the M3 in Hampshire. It smashed through the windscreen of a Ford Escort being driven by Simon Willmott, 23, a cable company salesman, and critically injured him.

The youths were charged with recklessly endangering the life of Mr Wilmott, of Bagshot in Surrey. He spent five months in hospital with *serious head and chest injuries* after the incident near Odiham last October.

The boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, were also charged with recklessly endangering the life of Sharon Goodacre, a motorist driving behind Mr Willmott. They were also accused of damaging both vehicles.

Paul Farmer, sitting at Aldershot Magistrates' Court, said he was not convinced the evidence against the teenagers would be sufficient for a properly instructed jury to convict them. He ordered that both youths be discharged.

His decision is a blow to the Crown Prosecution Service which felt it had a realistic prospect of a conviction at crown court. Four prosecution witnesses gave evidence during the full committal hearing, which had been requested by the defence lawyers. Under this system the evidence is produced and tested in the magistrates' court before a decision is taken on whether to commit the case to crown court.

One of the witnesses who gave evidence admitted that he had been in the general area of the bridge two weeks before the incident with a group of youths. A key prosecution witness was able to identify only one defendant and other witnesses claimed to have seen the two youths at the same time in different places.

Detective Constable Steve Hampson, one of the officers in the case, said that the investigation had been taken as far as it could go. "We have a mountain of evidence in the case file which hasn't come in court over the past two days. We're very disappointed that things aren't going any further."

He said that without any more evidence, no further action could be taken.

Mr Willmott, who has returned to work, was not in court for the two-day hearing. He and his parents Alan, a bookseller, and Sandy, a jewellery shop assistant, were understood to be abroad on holiday yesterday.

A colleague of Mr Willmott at his employers, Nynex, in Bournemouth said she and everyone at the company was very disappointed with the verdict. "It's horrific that no one is going to be brought to justice," she said.

Outside the court, the father of one of the youths said the family would seek compensation for the cost of fighting the case. He said: "We have had nine months of hell and spent more than £5,000.

"This isn't the end of it and although we're obviously pleased at what's happened today for the two lads, things are just beginning. We have lost everything."

Aitken a stranger to truth, says QC

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Judge in the Jonathan Aitken libel action said yesterday that he would have to "reconsider his position" if the defence decided to call his wife Catharine as a witness.

Mr Justice Popplewell was told in the High Court by George Carman QC, counsel for the defence, that as a member of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Lady Popplewell might be required to give evidence over the former cabinet minister's involvement in TV-am in the 1980s and a secret Saudi Arabian £3.3 million stake in the troubled breakfast station.

The judge also said his position would have to be considered if the defendants in the case, *The Guardian* and Granada TV, decided to call *the IBA's former* chairman Lord Thomson of Monifieth or John Whitney, its director general — both of whom he knew socially.

But Mr Carman said he did not foresee that Lady Popplewell needed to be interviewed or called as a witness.

Mr Aitken, 54, who resigned from TV-am in 1988, has admitted he was guilty of a "lack of candour" over his failure to disclose to the IBA the Arab investment in "Aitken Telecommunications Holdings Limited" which had a stake in the station. But he has rejected claims that he entered into a secret deal to give the Saudis control.

Mr Aitken is suing over allegations in *The Guardian* and in the World In Action programme *Jonathan of Arabia* in 1995 that he was financially dependant on the Arabs and provided prostitutes for them.

Mr Carman put it to him: "A long time ago you said in a moving public speech you were going to take up the sword of truth to prosecute these claims of libel. As a man who claims to take up the sword of truth my last suggestion to you is this: you have proved yourself a stranger to the truth wherever it suits you. Before this court case and during it."

But Mr Aitken said he would be vindicated by his evidence in court. The hearing continues.

THE COMET PRICE index

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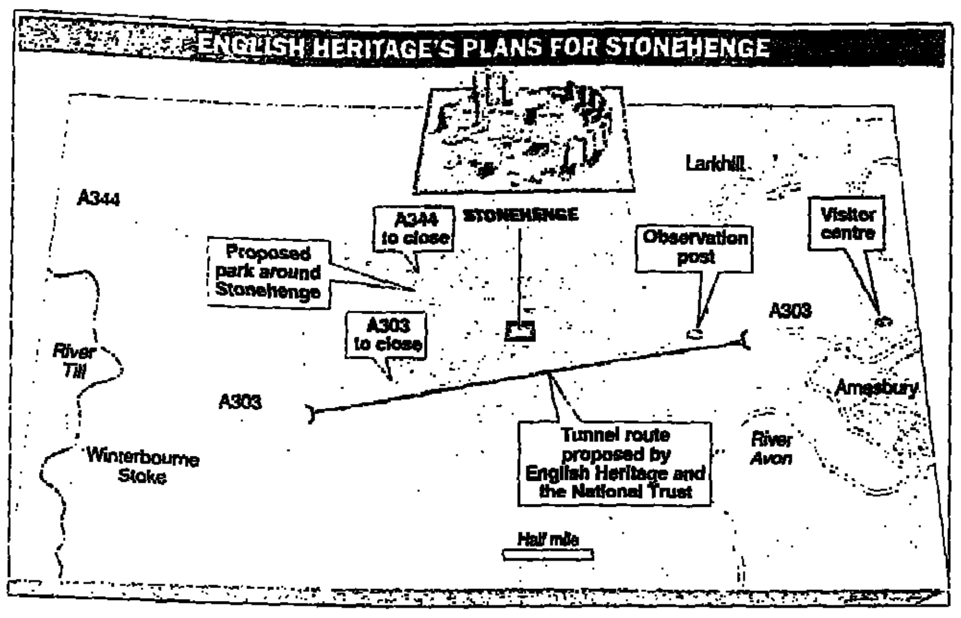
'It's a tragic decision. It sends a signal to the world about how little Britain cares for its monument'

ENGLISH HERITAGE'S PLANS FOR STONEHENGE



PETER NICHOLLS

A security guard on patrol at Stonehenge yesterday. English Heritage's plans included a new visitor centre and 6,000-acre Millennium Park

Lottery rejection demolishes £44m Stonehenge plan

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A SCHEME to protect Stonehenge from the ravages of tourists and traffic was rejected by the Millennium Commission yesterday.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, which owns the site, voiced dismay that the £44 million project would have to be scrapped, even though it had the backing of government archaeologists and the local community. 'It's tragic," Sir Jocelyn said. "They did not even give a reason."

In a briefly worded fax, the commission told English Heritage, which had applied for £22 million, that it faced stiff competition from other schemes. Sir Jocelyn, emphasising that English Heritage had cut costs to the bone, said: "I don't think there's a less expensive way. I haven't a clue how we're going to do it as we haven't got any money." Preparing the scheme had cost about £2 million over the past five years.

He said that Stonehenge was suffering from an estimated 20,000 vehicles a day passing on the A303, 300 yards away, causing the standing stones to vibrate continuously. "An icon of England's built heritage is being damaged by the road and fumes. It sends a signal to the world about how little Britain cares for its monument."

The 5,000-year-old stones draw nearly one million visitors a year. "Over half find the experience very disappointing," Sir Jocelyn said. "They have an ugly little car park, a pathetic counter from which to get a cup of tea and, if it's raining, water goes down your neck. We believed we had a very good solution." English Heritage had, he said, addressed all the concerns of a 1992 report that branded the site a national disgrace.

It was planned to grass over the A344 on the north side of the stones and cut and cover the main road, the A303, on the south side. As well as building a visitor centre, there would have been a 6,000-acre Millennium Park. The visitor centre, offering an audio-visual history of the site, would have been out of sight from the stones. Access to the stones would have been free, with tickets to the visitor centre, which would have been optional, costing about £6.75.

Sir Jocelyn speculated that the commission may have felt uneasy about a private investor making a profit through lottery cash: the scheme involved the Tussauds Group, which was proposing to invest £10 million. Phil Taylor, an executive director of Tussauds, said: "This was one of the most imaginative and exciting opportunities that has existed for many years. Everyone on the team is very disappointed."

Sir Jocelyn was frustrated that the Millennium Commissioners did not provided guidance on what concerned them. When any of them visited "they invalidated anything they said in the following sentence, 'I'm not encouraging you or discouraging you ...' I'd try to pick up crumbs that would fall off their table."

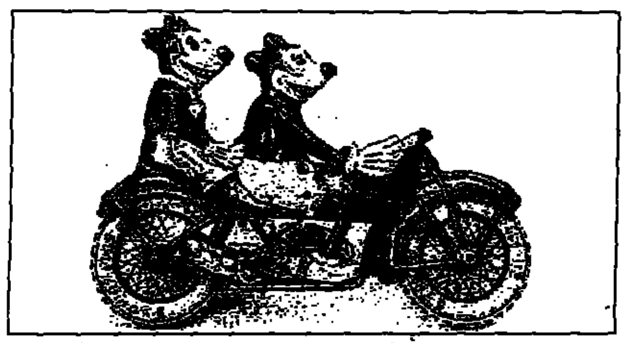
Sir Jocelyn was unable to explain the rejection and said The Ramblers and other environmental organisations had given their blessing to the plans. All by-ways would have been preserved and a road removed. "It's the sort of scheme that Swampy would have liked. It's ideal for what the Millennium Commission was set up to do."

He hopes to discuss the matter with Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, who chaired the Millennium Commission meeting. "I will ask for his support in the search for a solution. I've always thought the solution would require a Cabinet decision."

A spokeswoman for the Millennium Commission said: "We have advised English Heritage that we don't think they've got a chance of being successful. We've warned them that we don't think it's worth them spending any more money pursuing the application. We've been incredibly oversubscribed and they are in competition with an awful lot of other projects."

Leading article, page 21

Mickey Mouse toy banned by the Nazis is expected to sell for £30,000



Mickey and Minnie: sought by fanatical collectors

BY JOHN SHAW

ONE of the few clockwork Mickey Mouse figures made in Germany before the Nazis nationalised the factory and banned their production is expected to sell for a record £30,000 next week.

The tin-plate Mickey and Minnie on a motorcycle was made for only a short period between the wars before the Nazis took over and demanded more Germanic toys. The one being auctioned at Christie's South Kensington on Monday was discovered by the *Antiques Roadshow*. It is the only known example in its original box, which could add £10,000 to the estimate of between £15,000 and £20,000.

Giles Moon, a toy specialist at Christie's, said: "I can't stress enough how important it is because collectors for Mickey are quite fanatical and anything with the original box is sought after."

Rarity has made the toy one of the most valued on the market. The catalogue entry shows two photographs of it and three of the box, which has an illustration of the two Disney figures. The toy was bought from a branch of Woolworth's, probably in Cheltenham in the early 1930s. It was a present for the vendor's uncle, then aged nine.

The owners were not aware of its value until the BBC television programme visited Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. They did not go to the roadshow, but allowed their neighbours to take the toy on their behalf. It was spotted by Hilary Kaye, the head of Sotheby's toy department and one of the television team's resident experts. Afterwards, however, the owners took their treasure to a local branch of Christie's, Sotheby's greatest rival, where staff immediately sent it to be auctioned in London.

The toy was made by Tipp & Co to capitalise on the popularity of the early Mickey Mouse films. But Hitler's rise to power in 1933 spelt the end for the American interloper and Mickey was banned by 1935.

The German modelmakers gave Mickey rat-like features and five-fingered hands instead of the usual four. These peculiarities add to their collecting appeal, but its most valuable feature is the original box. Mr Moon said that another early toy of Mickey Mouse as an organ grinder could make, in good condition, between £5,000 and £6,000. But Christie's had sold a boxed version for £13,000.

Another Mickey and Minnie motorcyle model that came to light after the television programme will be sold by Phillips on Tuesday. That one is unboxed and expected to make between £7,000 and £10,000.

Selected stores now open until 10.30pm.
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

IRMA

❛ She was crying silently, big round tears rolling down her cheeks. I wanted to scream but I controlled myself in front of her. I bent down and kissed her ❜

Four years ago, Britain prayed for a little victim of the Bosnian war. Now her father tells her tragic story ...

Starting tomorrow in The Sunday Times

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Historians lock horns over Hitler's talents as an artist

By Peter Foster

TWO leading historians of Nazi Germany were locked in dispute yesterday over whether a drawing of Adolf Hitler is a rare self-portrait.

The small picture in pencil, signed and dated by the Nazi leader, was taken as a souvenir by a British soldier advancing through Germany in 1945. It is to be auctioned later this month after being authenticated by Michael Mackintosh, a Hitler expert with 20 years' experience, as a self-portrait.

Mr Mackintosh, who advised the late Marquess of Bath on his renowned collection of Hitler's art, is convinced the portrait is a genuine work by Hitler and of great historical importance. He has hailed the picture as a major find because of the year in which it was drawn — 1931, two years before Hitler secured power.

But David Irving, the right-wing historian who was the only academic to spot that the Hitler diaries were a hoax, declared the portrait to be the work of another artist after he was shown a copy by *The Times*. Mr Irving compared the newly discovered drawing to a self-portrait of Hitler which he keeps in the study at his Mayfair home. "I'm 80 per cent sure this is a pencil sketch by someone else, but that Hitler autographed it during one of his many walkabouts. Hitler did not date his own work at this period and the quality of the shading and draughtsmanship is too subtle to be Hitler's," he said.

"It was common in this period for Hitler to sign pictures offered to him by supporters. My picture, which is definitely by Hitler, shows his cruder style very clearly.".

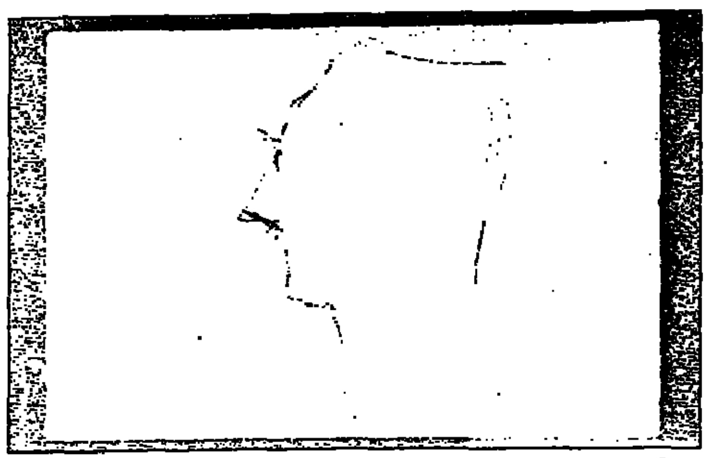
Mr Irving also questioned the provenance of the new sketch. "All Hitler's houses were in the US-controlled zone of Germany, which makes it doubly unlikely for a British soldier to find a genuine Hitler self-portrait in the British-controlled sector."

Mr Irving, currently working in Florida, is in no doubt about the authenticity of his Hitler self-portrait. It was taken from Hitler's desk during the final days of the war by the Nazi leader's private secretary, Christa Schroeder, whom Irving knew for many years. "My picture was among some of the things she saved and it has another sketch on the back, probably of Eva Braun [Hitler's mistress]." Mr Mackintosh, however, believes that the disputed sketch could have been a gift from Hitler to a high-ranking Nazi official, particularly as it was found in a magnificent silver frame decorated with swastikas.

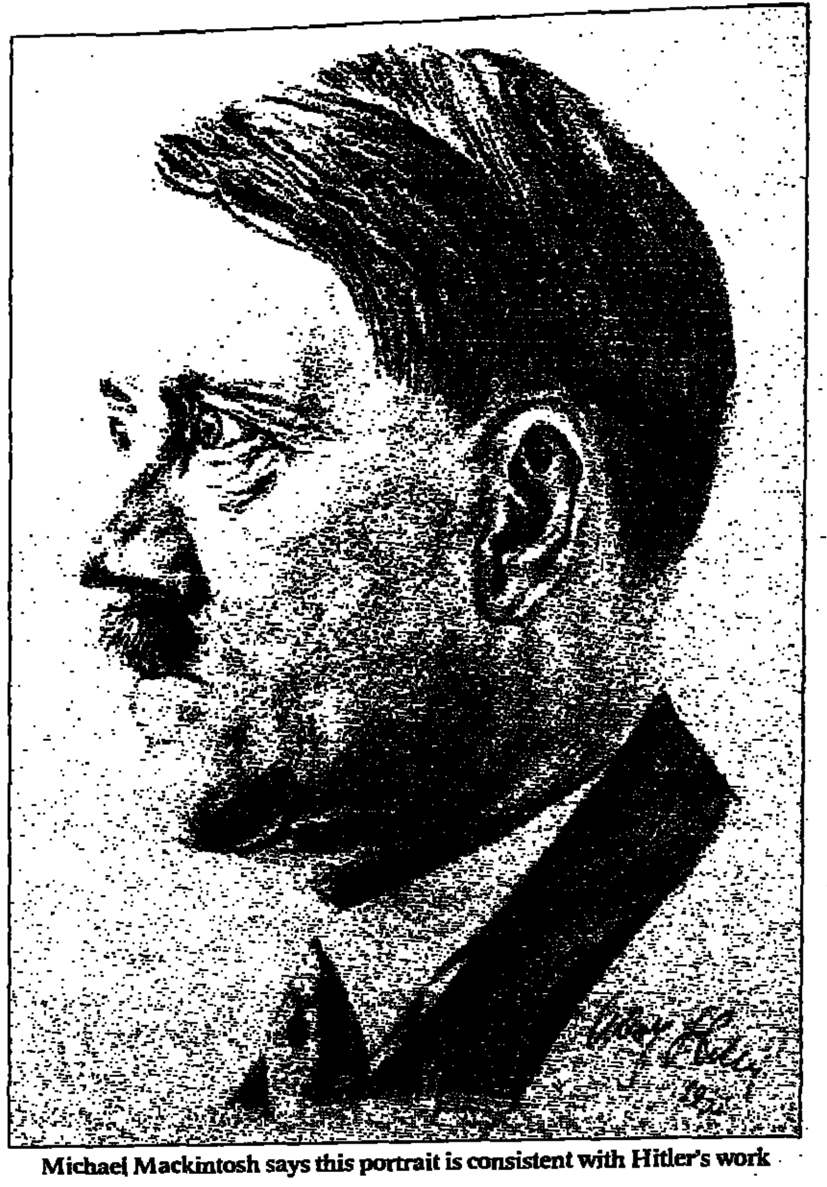
Though Mr Mackintosh was initially dismayed by Mr Irving's judgment, he was sticking to his guns after double-checking his original evaluation. "I have cross-referenced this picture with other examples of Hitler's draughtmanship and still believe the work is consistent with the quality of Hitler's craftsmanship."

The sketch was found by Donald Sims, a British soldier serving with The Royal Corps of Signals, as he searched a bombed-out building in Essen for booby traps. He discovered the picture in the boarded-up house of a local *gauleiter*. Mr Sims, now in his 70s and living in Cirencester, sold the frame for its scrap value in the 1970s, but kept the picture, much to the annoyance of his wife.

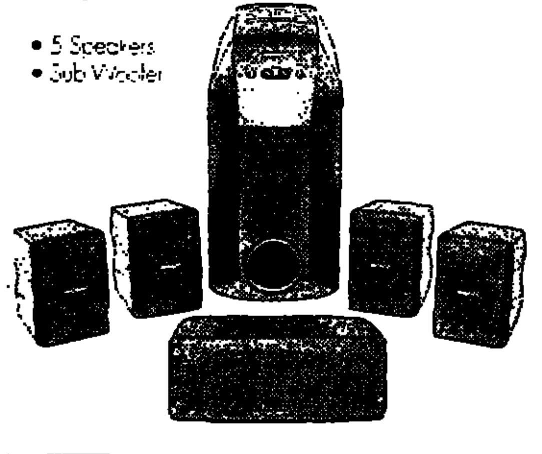
The portrait, is to be sold by the Manor Estate Auction Rooms in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, on June 21. The estimated value is £2,000-£3,000, but experts believe it could fetch five or six times that amount.



David Irving believes his portrait shows Hitler's true style



Michael Mackintosh says this portrait is consistent with Hitler's work



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Rural marchers rally to defence of country sport

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

RURAL workers fearful for their jobs and homes set out today on a series of marches from all over Britain, converging on London next month for a rally in defence of country sports.

Organisers expect the rally in Hyde Park to attract up to 100,000 people who resent the threat to their way of life from what they see as an intolerant urban majority with no understanding of country traditions.

Seven marchers will start today from Caldbeck in the Lake District and 26 leave Coldstream in the Borders tomorrow. Marchers from Cornwall and Wales set out on June 27. In all about a hundred will take to the road, hoping that sympathisers will swell their ranks. They have been offered free accommodation in village halls, barns, pubs and private homes and plan to arrive in Hyde Park for the rally on July 10.

The marchers set off as Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, ponders whether to press ahead with a Private Member's Bill to ban hunting with hounds. The Government has pledged to allow a free vote on such a measure, which would command a big majority in the Commons.

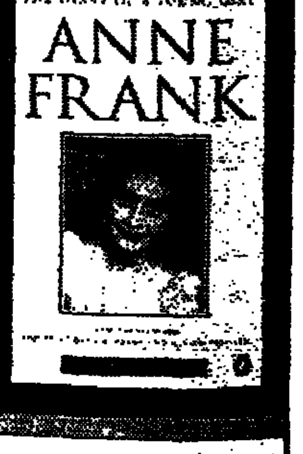
Mr Foster is said to be under pressure from party whips to abandon plans for the Bill, at least in this session of Parliament, because of fears that it would be fiercely opposed in the Lords, holding up the passage of more important legislation.

Simon Clarke, of the British Field Sports Society, who is co-ordinating the rally, says 500 coaches and seven trains have been hired by hunts and other countryside groups to take people to the event. "There is tremendous interest," he said. "Some country estates and businesses such as saddlers and feed merchants are planning to give their staff the day off so they can attend. We now have a Government with a large majority of urban MPs. This rally is critical to show them just how important country sports are."

John Fretwell, huntsman with the Stowe Beagles in Buckinghamshire and chairman of the recently formed Union of Country Sports Workers, said: "I stand to lose my home and my job. But it is not just hunting that is threatened. If the anti-hunting fanatics get their way, grouse-shooting and salmon-fishing will be the next on the list of targets for the abolitionists." The Labour Party insists that shooting and angling are safe.

Field sports supporters say that if MPs approve a Bill to ban hunting they will be voting to destroy up to 14,000 rural jobs and signing the death warrants of thousands of hounds and horses.

There are 319 officially recognised packs of fox, deer, beagle, harrier, basset, mink and fell hounds in Britain, which employ 3,910 people, the British Field Sports Society says. The British Equestrian Trade Association estimates that hunting supports a further 9,000 jobs in ancillary trades. An additional 1,000 jobs could be lost by hotels and garages that derive much of their winter custom from people taking part in hunts and by businesses that supply and maintain horseboxes.



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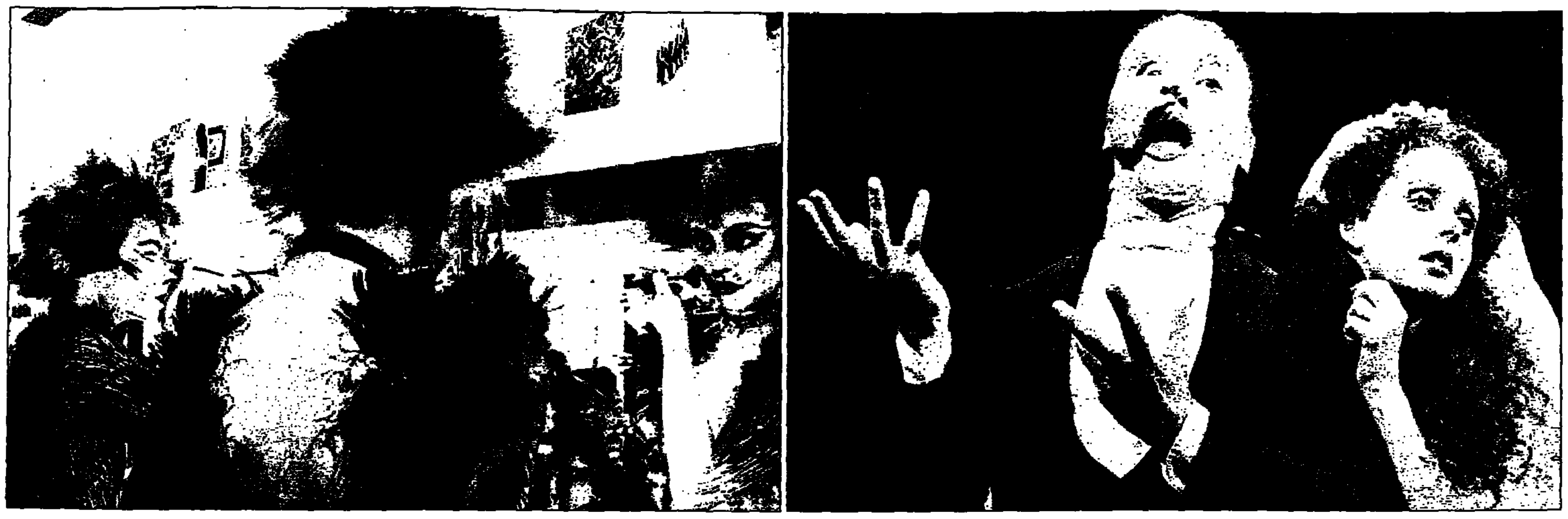
Lloyd Webber fears big musical show is over

By Carol Midgley
and Jon Ashworth,
and Tunku Varadarajan
in New York



Lord Lloyd-Webber has made a fortune out of the worldwide success of long-running shows such as *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera* but the signs now are that public tastes are changing

THE composer with the Midas touch, Andrew Lloyd Webber, admitted that the golden days of the musical may be over yesterday as he forecast losses of up to £10 million for his Really Useful Group.

The man who wrote the music for box office giants such as *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Starlight Express* said that no longer were there large profits to be made from the big stage musical.

Rising backstage costs combined with a growing public taste for smaller scale productions have been cited as reasons for the change of fortune. But some critics suggest that the conventional Lloyd-Webber production may be falling out of fashion. "The big question is, can he write another musical to equal the success of *Cats*?" said one critic yesterday. "Tastes are changing and he might have seen his salad days."

Lord Lloyd-Webber, who until two weeks ago had never set foot in the Covent Garden offices of Really Useful, has moved in as chairman. In January the company parted with 18 members of staff and last month Patrick McKenna, the chairman and chief executive, left.

"We live in parlous times for musicals," Lord Lloyd-Webber said in an interview published yesterday. "*Whistle Down the Wind* [his show in Washington DC] will be an acid test. Because shows like *Phantom* have been huge there has been a belief among people doing budgets that there is fat in musicals. For a new show there is none."

He had earlier said: "Backstage costs in London and New York have now reached really dangerous levels. I have a feeling that the day of the big musical is ending and that, although *Cats*, *Les Miserables*, and *Phantom* will be with us for a long time to come, they may be the first and last of their kind."

Lloyd Webber: group is facing £10m losses

The full extent of Really Useful's loss has yet to be seen. The group's profits have been on a downward curve, but to plunge to a £10 million loss would suggest a setback of catastrophic proportions. Lord Lloyd-Webber's advisers struggled to avoid portraying it as such yesterday. A spokesman said: "It could be more, it could be less, but clearly it's going to be bad."

Formed in 1977, Really Useful was floated on the Stock Exchange in 1986, but went private again after just four years. The company has enjoyed spectacular growth, seeing pre-tax profits rise from £5 million to £46 million between 1989 and 1994, but its fortunes have since declined.

Sunset Boulevard was not a financial success — the "mansion" for the Broadway show cost $4.5 million — while further substantial sums were wrapped up in *Whistle Down The Wind*, which opened to poor reviews, and was pulled before it could transfer to Broadway. Lord Lloyd-Webber has said he might not bring the show to London.

Matt Wolf, London theatre critic for *Variety* magazine, said that Lord Lloyd-Webber had not had a US smash hit since 1988 with *Phantom*. "The huge success that big musicals enjoyed in the Eighties was due to a particular appetite at a particular time, a time of conspicuous consumption, and it will never come again. Smaller musicals may be the future but it is unclear whether it is the future for him."

The latest chill winds from London, however, seem not to have reached Lord Lloyd-Webber's New York camp, where celebrations are under way for Thursday's gala performance of *Cats*. The musical will then become the longest-running show in Broadway history, its 6,138th consecutive performance pushing it ahead of *A Chorus Line*. Peter Brown, the composer's spokesman in New York, said: "Broadway is still Lloyd-Webber country." While conceding that Really Useful had incurred big losses he was confident that it would be "in the black" next year.

A close friend of Lord Lloyd-Webber in New York said: "Andrew tends to dramatise things. A more cautious man would not have made so much about those losses in public. We all know that the theatre runs in phases. You're up one day, and then down the next, just like the curtain."

Benedict Nightingale, *The Times*'s theatre critic compared the soft style of Lloyd-Webber with *Rent*, a successful musical running on Broadway that focuses on the street people of the Lower East side. He said: "It is a harsh, rough and tough musical and if that is what people's tastes are moving towards then our Puccini may be seen to be a bit passé. He can still write beautiful songs: the question is, is that what people want for the next millennium?"

But the author and critic Sheridan Morley said it was not that Lord Lloyd-Webber was old fashioned but that the public had rejected the musical in recent months. "There are four musicals which have died this year which are all different and all very good. It is easy to say Andrew's productions are tired and old fashioned but *Whistle Down the Wind* is a very raw, brave and adventurous and it still lost money."

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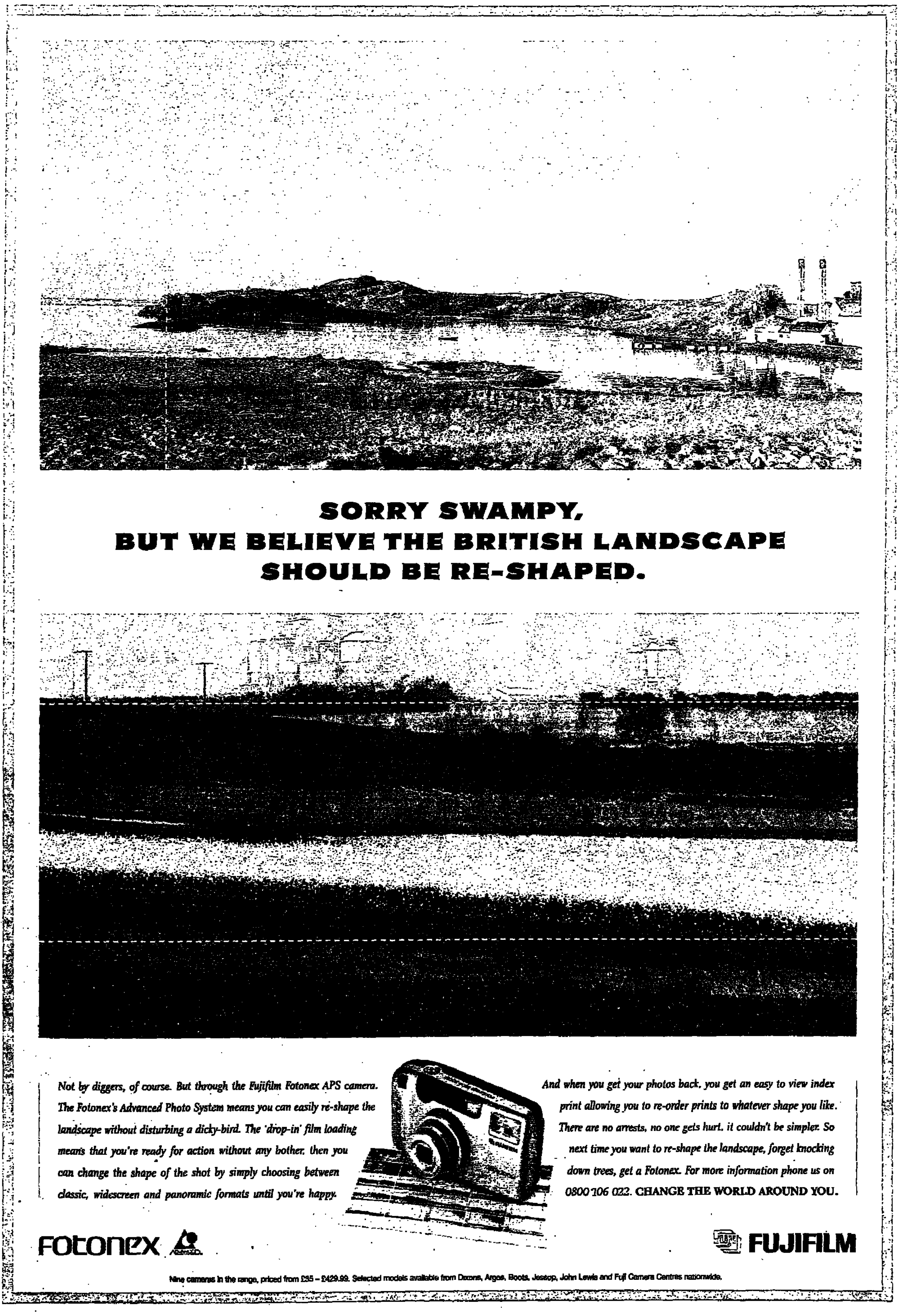

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Mary Blake, 50, wounded at Dunblane, receives a Commendation for Bravery; Marcus and Karen Hilton, ballroom partners, are appointed MBEs; and the writer and comedienne Victoria Wood is appointed OBE

Bravery awards honour three Dunblane teachers

By Shirley English

THE three Dunblane teachers who tried to shield their children from Thomas Hamilton's bullets were today awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery.

Gwen Mayor, 45, who died with 16 primary school pupils in the massacre last March, was named with Eileen Harrild, 44, a PE teacher, and Mary Blake, 50, a special needs teacher, who both survived.

The honours were revealed 15 months to the day after the shootings and in the week in which the Government banned all handguns. Because of their injuries in the attack on a class of 28 five and six years olds, neither Mrs Harrild nor Mrs Blake have returned to work and are still receiving treatment. They said yesterday that they were proud and delighted to have been honoured, but at the same time filled with deep sadness at the way their awards had come about.

Mrs Mayor, the class teacher, was shot six times, including a fatal wound to her head. Her injuries were consistent with attempting to shield the children in her care. Her husband, Rodney Mayor, will receive the award on her behalf.

When Mrs Harrild, who was shot four times in the arms and chest, last met the Queen she was lying in hospital, numbed by the loss of the children and her colleague. Yesterday, speaking about the day in July that she will meet the Queen again to receive her award at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, she said: "It will be very poignant because of why we are there.

"Gwen and the children will never be far from our thoughts. We will never, ever forget what happened in the gym that day, or the innocent children who lost their lives. It is so sad that Gwen will not be there to receive her award, and while we are all extremely proud, it will also be a very emotional occasion."

She said that she felt her award recognised the bravery of all those who survived: "That includes the children who survived, particularly due to what Mary and I did. It is nice that people recognise that. There are people living who are surviving every day with injuries."

Mrs Blake was shot four times in both legs and the head. She managed to crawl away from Hamilton, following Mrs Harrild and a few dazed and injured children to an open store area in the corner of the gym.

The two teachers could hear the other children wailing and crying. They attempted to pull gym mats over the young pupils to protect them and then put their fingers to their lips to keep them quiet.

Yesterday Mrs Blake said: "I had no idea we would even be considered for something like this. So when I found out about ten days ago, I just started to cry. I was very emotional and the tears were streaming down my face. I felt very honoured and delighted but at the same time I was very sad for the reasons I was receiving it."

Among other heroes honoured today is a search-and-rescue helicopter winchman. Friedrich Manson, 34, from the Shetland Isles, helped 56 seamen to safety from a stricken ship aground on rocks during an early morning winter storm in 1993.

He receives the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air for winching the seamen to safety in darkness, despite being waist-deep in water and lashed by rain being driven by 60mph winds.

Mr Manson, who has since taken up fish farming, said: "I miss the job, but during the rescue that morning I realised how near to death I had got."

Two members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary receive the Queen's Commendation for Bravery. Constable William Houston, 43, wrestled with a gunman during a raid at a building society in Ballymoney, Co Antrim. Two men were arrested and jailed.

Constable Stevie Lowey, 24, is being rewarded for an act of bravery which, for security reasons, is being kept secret.

MBE for silent keeper of Prime Ministers' secrets

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

Jordan: saw stresses of power at first hand

BOB JORDAN, the doorkeeper at 10 Downing Street, has kept a vow of silence during the decade in which he has witnessed prime ministerial emotions hidden from the public gaze.

He was rewarded for his loyalty yesterday by being appointed MBE for his service to the three Prime Ministers he has greeted thousands of times. Among the low points that Mr Jordan, 65, witnessed were Margaret Thatcher's grief on being forced to step down from office and John Major's frustration at having to pull Britain out of the ERM.

Tony Blair, grappling with the furore yesterday over the future of the NHS, might ruefully agree with his doorkeeper's verdict on the post. "I wouldn't do that job for all the tea in China," Mr Jordan said. "They have a hell of a job and I admire them all for the way they handle it."

He admits that on occasion he has needed to use tact when political enemies have come and gone through the famous front door. "We have to usher them into another reception room sometimes to make sure they don't meet up," he said.

Mr Jordan, who retires in October, heads a list of award-winners who rarely feature prominently in public but have benefited under the "classless" honours system set up by John Major.

Richard McMillan, a Highland council roadman, has achieved a reputation for his unstinting work in keeping immaculate the verges of the A82 from Douchfour to Drumnadrochit, near Inverness. His painstaking efforts have now been recognised by his appointment as MBE.

James Kinnin, coxswain on the Isle of Man's Ramsey lifeboat, is similarly honoured for his 26 years of fearless work, during which 80 lives have been saved.

Janice Finestone, a school cleaner, abandoned the comfort of seaside life in Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, is appointed MBE for her humanitarian work in Croatia. She turned her modest flat into a collection point for masses of medical equipment, building tools and furniture, and then oversaw their distribution in the former Yugoslavia.

Trevor Baylis, 60, the inventor of clockwork radio, a wind-up device developed for use in the Third World, is appointed OBE. He said from his home in Twickenham, southwest London, that he was overwhelmed. "Until four or five years ago I was just the nutcase at the end of the garden, inventing gizmos next to the geraniums in the potting shed."

Mr Baylis now hopes to use his new-found status to push through plans for a Royal Academy of Inventors: "I don't want anyone else to go through the rejections that I did."

☐ The Queen has bestowed 43 honours in her personal gift, the Royal Victorian Order. John "Jimmy" James, secretary and keeper of records at the Duchy of Cornwall, and Richard Thornton, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, are appointed knight commanders. Stephen Cox, director-general of the Commonwealth Institute, and the Earl of Home, become commanders.

PRINCIPAL HONOURS

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Inge, Field Marshal Sir Peter, former Chief of the Defence Staff.

Levene, Sir Peter Keith, former adviser to the Prime Minister on efficiency and effectiveness.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR

Baker, Bryan William, regional chairman, West Midlands NHS Executive, for services to health care.

Baldwin, Professor Jack Edward, FRS, Waynflete Professor of Chemistry, University of Oxford, for services to organic chemistry.

Blyth, Chay, for services to sailing.

Buckland, Ross, chief executive, Unigate plc, for services to the food industry and to the environment.

Cadbury, Nicholas Dominic Cadbury, chairman, Cadbury Schweppes plc, for services to the food manufacturing industry.

Collins, Bryan Thomas Alfred, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services, for services to the Fire Service.

Cork, Roger William, Lord Mayor of London, for services to the City of London and for public service.

Evans, Professor John Grimley, Professor of Clinical Geratology, University of Oxford, for services to medicine.

Farmer, Thomas, chairman and chief executive, Kwik-Fit Holdings plc, for services to the automotive industry.

Grossart, Angus McFarlane McLeod, former chairman, board of trustees, National Galleries of Scotland, for services to the arts.

Harman, John Andrew, leader, Kirklees Metropolitan Council, for services to local government and to the environment.

Jennings, John Southwood, chairman, Shell Transport and Trading plc, for services to the oil and gas industry.

Lloyd, Professor Geoffrey Ernest Richard, Professor of Ancient Philosophy and Science and Master of Darwin College, University of Cambridge, for services to the history of thought

Masefield, Charles Beech Gordon, for services to defence exports.

Mirrlees, Professor James, Professor of Political Economy, University of Cambridge, for services to economic science.

Norrington, Roger Arthur Carver, conductor, services to music.

O'Sullevan, Peter John, for services to horse racing.

Patel, Professor Narendra Babubhai, President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and chairman, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties, for services to medicine.

Roberts, FRS, Professor Gareth Gwyn, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sheffield, for services to higher education.

Sinden, Donald Alfred, actor, for services to drama.

Stoppard, Thomas, playwright, for services to literature.

Sykes, Hugh Ridley, chairman, Sheffield Development Corporation, for services to business and for charitable services.

White, Judge Frank John, senior judge, Central London County Court.

ORDER OF THE BATH

DCB

Bowtell, Mrs Ann Elizabeth, Permanent Secretary, Department of Social Security.

KCB

Limon, Donald William, Clerk of the House of Commons.

CB

J E **Avery**, Dep Parly Commr for Admin, Off of the Parly Commr for Admin. Mrs P A **Denham**, reg dir, Govt Off NE, DTI. D S **Grundy**, For Commr. K H **Jones**, ch exec, Medicines Control Ag, DoH. Eugene **McGivern**, dir, pers tax div, Bd of In Rev. R B **Spence**, publ serv. C D **Stevens**, frmr Princ Estab Off, Welsh Off. I J **Stewart**, proj dir, Job Seekers' Allow, DFEE. N W **Summerton**, form dir, Water and Land, DoEnv. D C **Tyte**, dir rationlsn, Def Eval and Res Ag, MoD. J A V **White**, 4th Clerk at the Table and Cl of the Judl Off, Hse of Lords.

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Ying Sheung **Wu**, Gordon, managing director, Hopewell Holdings Group, for services to export.

CMG

D **Kennedy**, dir-gen, Commth War Graves Commn. R S **Mabey**, dir, Bovis Construct, for serv to expt. N Mac **McMillan**, dir, internat commns pol, DTI. Allan Robert **Willett**, chairman, Willett Internat, serv expt.

ORDER OF THE COMPANIONS OF HONOUR

Hockney, David, artist, for services to art.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

DBE

Laine, Miss Cleo (Clementine) Dinah (Mrs Dankworth), singer, for services to jazz music.

KBE

Polkinghorne, the Rev John Charlton, FRS, for services to medical ethics and to learning.

CBE

Commanders of the Order of the British Empire

Prof E W **Abel**, pres, Roy Soc Chemistry, servs chemistry; G A **Adamson**, vice-chmn, Financial Systems NCR, servs manfctrg ind; Prof M F **Ashby**, Roy Soc Research Prof, Dept Eng, Cambridge, servs materials sci and eng.

Miss K **Bahl** (Mrs Lakhani), chairwmn, Eq Opportnts Comm, servs eq opportnts; I D H **Baillie**, dir soc work, Ch of Scotland, servs soc care provision; B F **Baldock**, former dep chmn, Guinness, servs drnks ind; C D **Barnett**, servs military hist; Prof T M **Barratt**, former Prof Paediatric Nephrology, Inst Child Health, London, servs medicine; T A **Bone**, former area mngr, Prison Serv, Home Office; J T **Bowman**, countertenor, servs music; K J **Bridge**, chmn, Ed Assets Board, servs educ; Prof A D **Buckingham**, Prof Chemistry, Cambridge, servs sci; B R R **Butler**, servs oil ind and Roy Academy Eng

F A A **Carnwath**, servs arts and heritage; Prof R L **Carter**, former chmn, Cttee on Carcinogenicity, servs health care; C **Christie**, gen sec, Scot TUC, servs ind rels; A S **Close**, chmn, Health Educ Auth, servs health educ; Prof R D **Cohen**, Prof Med, Bart's and Roy London School Med and Dent, Queen Mary and Westfield Coll, and chmn, Imp Cancer Res Fund, servs med; T G **Congdon**, man dir, Lombard St Research servs ec debate; W P **Cooke**, chmn, Housg Corp, servs housg; Miss P M **Cunningham**, chief exec, Roy Marsden NHS Trust, servs health care; J A H **Curry**, chmn, All Eng Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, servs lawn tennis.

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A J **MacDonald**, exec chmn, Scottish Media Group, servs brdcstg; Prof M A **MacKeith**, Pro Vice-Chanc, Univ Central Lancashire, servs higher educ; A **MacLaren**, Chief Valuer Scotland, Valuation Office Agency, Inland Revenue; Prof D **MacLennan**, foundg brd member, Scottish Homes, servs housg policy; Prof N **MacKay**, Dean Postgrad Med, Glasgow Univ, and pres, Roy Coll Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, servs med; H J **Malins**, trustee, Immigration Advisry Serv, servs immigration policy; A S **Matheson**, servs architecture; K W **McKay**, former head, local govt current expenditure div, Scot Office; W P **McLennan**, former dir, Central Stat Off, servs stats and creation of Off Nat Stats; M **Michael**, head, VAT and excise advisory div, Solicitor's Office, Customs and Excise; E O **Mirzoeff**, exec doc producer, BBC TV, servs brdcstg; I S **Mitchelson**, former chief exec, Service Children's Educ, MoD; Prof F C **Monds**, servs econ dev; A N **Morrison**, Chief Insp Fire Servs for Scot, servs fire service.

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A S D **Lacy**, dir and intnl affairs advsr, Babcock Tech Serv Ltd, serv to Lond Chamb of Comrce and Exprt; R E **Lane**, serv to Business and commty in Bromley Kent; D C F **Latham**, dep MD, Anglian Water Interntl, serv to water indust; D **Lawless**, ODA; J B **Leck**, serv to commty in N W Eng; Miss A M **Lees**, llty ch, Inlnd Watrwys Amenty Advisry Ccl, serv to inland watrwys and planning; J S **Lewis**, hd of combustn engring, Rolls-Royce, serv to aero engrng; M G J **Lickens**, serv to tourism on IoW; J A **Lloyd**, serv to Magistracy in Swansea; Antonella The Marchioness of **Lothian**, serv to women's issues and charit serv to blind; R R **Lovegrove**, serv to RSPB and consrvtn in Wales, P A **Lowe**, llty exec ch, Yorks Chemicls plc, serv to chemcl indust; J N **Lucas**, off in chrge, Bd of In Rev

Prof J E C **MacBeath**, dir, Quality in Educ Cntre, Strathclyde Univ, serv to Educ, A I **Macdonald**, Bd of In Rev; Miss A E **Mace**, Chf Probtn Offr, W Yorks, serv to probtn serv; C J **Macey**, Snr Prnpl, Met Off, MoD; T J **Mahoney**, serv to loc gov in Wales; N K **Maitland**, fmr ch, London Fedn of Clubs for Yng Pple, services to young; Lt Col P **Mantle**, serv to Magistrcy in Caerphilly; R H **Marriott**, dir, BT, serv to the telecom indust; P C **Marsh**, serv to forstry; J E Lady **Mayhew** Of Twysden, serv to commty relatns and charit causes; T H **McCartney**, serv to textile indust in NI; Miss M T **McDonald**, ch, children's panel advry cttee, Glasgow City Ccl, serv to chldrn's panels; D J **McDonough**, Prisn Serv, Home Off; T **McGrath**, serv to educ; G B **McKelvie**, ch, Stirling Royl Infirmy NHS Trst, serv to hlth care; M **McLean**, DSS; J P **Mellor**, serv to Soldrs, Sailrs and Airmn Famlies Assoc in W Mids; Mrs B **Melvin**, fmr dep chf nursng offr, Welsh Off; Mrs M A **Merritt**, MoD; E B **Miller**, Scot Off; P **Mitchell**, serv to Brit Motor Indust Herit Trst; B **Morgan**, prncpl professl and tech offcr, MoD; M R **Morris**, hdtchr, Bacup and Rawtenstall Gramm Sch, Lancs, serv to educ; P **Moxon**, Chf Commisnr of Eng (Cent), Scout Assn, serv to scouting; A L S **Munro**, team ldr, Marine Lab, Scot Off; D **Murray** BBC Ireland corresp, serv to brdcsting.

Miss E H **Nelson**, ch, Ecolabelling Bd, serv to ecolabling; Mrs P J **Newell**, fmr ch, Maxwell Pensioners Trst; J C **Norman**, serv to commty esp the RNLI on Jersey.

J K M **Oliver**, serv to farming and commty in Scot; M D **Oxnard**, serv to forestry in Wales.

Miss M J **Packwood**, fmr ch exec, Weald of Kent Commty NHS Trust, serv to hlth care and disabld; K **Pathak**, ch, Pataks Spices Ltd, serv to food indust and export; J M **Patrick**, artist, serv to art; Mrs A E **Pearce**, dir, field bureaux servs, Nat Assn of CABs, serv to CAB mvmnt; K G **Pearson**, tech dir, Three Quays Marine Serv, serv to marine sfty; Prof K G **Pease**, Prof of Criminolgy, Huddersfield Univ, serv to crime prevntn; M **Pender**, fmr Equal Opps and Human Resrces Proj mgr, Emplymnt Serv, DFEE; C W M **Penn**, fmr ldr, Conservtve gp, Suffolk C C, serv to lo gov; R **Pooley**, MD, Anglian Produce Ltd, serv to agnc mrkting, Prof J G **Pope**, MAFF; N F **Povey**, serv to Civl Serv charits, A J M **Price**, ch, Arthur Price of Eng, serv to cutlery indust; Mrs M T **Prosser**, natl orgr, TGWU, serv to industrl relats and women's issues, V W **Pugh**, serv to agnc, P J **Pye**, Dean, Faclty of Hlth Studies, Univ of Wales (Bangor), serv to nursing.

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Miss P M **Cain**, serv commty Perth. Mrs P R **Carpenter**, MoD. D B **Carron**, MRI Scanner Appeal, Grimsby Hosp. D **Chakraborti**, cons psychtt, King's Lynn. N **Chalmers**, Taymouth Castle, Kenmore, serv conservn. R M **Chalmers**, master baker, Aberdeen. Mrs M J **Chambers**

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Nick Park, Oscar-winning creator of Wallace and Gromit, is appointed CBE; the artist David Hockney, famous for such works as *A Bigger Splash*, becomes a Companion of Honour; and Cleo Laine, the singer, becomes a dame

Broad brush adds colour to worlds of art, stage and song

By Dalya Alberge, Joanna Bale and Peter Foster

DAVID HOCKNEY, Donald Sinden and Cleo Laine are among the leading figures from the arts and entertainment world to receive honours.

Hockney becomes a Companion of Honour, at 59 finally casting off his "*enfant terrible*" tag. The artist, who lives in California and maintains strong links with his home town of Bradford, said yesterday that the award "will please a lot of people and that pleases me. If it annoys some people, that'll please me."

Hockney is perhaps best-known for images such as *A Bigger Splash*, his 1967 vibrant image of a splash made by an unseen diver.

Donald Sinden, 73, receives a knighthood for a career on the stage and in films and television spanning more than 50 years.

He enlisted his grandson to break the news to his family. The actor said yesterday: "I hadn't even told my wife Diana, who was abroad when the letter came. Last night I called the family together and Henry read out the letter. We had dinner in the Garrick to celebrate and had to pretend it was for Diana's birthday."

Sir Donald, whose son Jeremy died of cancer last year, recently returned to the Coliseum for a revival of the ENO production of *Ariadne on Naxos*, in which he has a speaking role.

The jazz singer Cleo Laine, who becomes a dame, said: "I am deeply honoured. But it is British jazz that should have received the accolade for its service to me."

Dame Cleo continues to tour with her husband John Dankworth, who has been a leading figure in British jazz for 50 years. They both reach their 70th birthdays this year.

The much-loved writer and comedienne Victoria Wood, who is appointed OBE, is touring in her one-woman show, Victoria Wood Live. In a statement, she said, with typically self-deprecating humour: "I am very glad my many years as a lollipop lady have finally been recognised."

There is a knighthood for the conductor Roger Norrington, who has pioneered the "shock of the old", with period instruments. He performs works in a style that he has found to be closer to the composer's intentions than that long heard in concert halls, his approach involving faster tempi. He saw the knighthood "as a symbol of how much my kind of music is moving centrestage now. It's rather agreeable."

Sir Roger, associate chief guest conductor with the London Philharmonic Orchestra as well as musical director of the London Classical Players and the Schütz Choir of London, has performed many previously unknown works as well as concerts of "music we thought we knew".

There is also a knighthood for Tom Stoppard, the prolific playwright, whose philosophical comedies have been winning accolades ever since *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* was first staged at the National Theatre 30 years ago.

The animator Nick Park, who created Wallace and Gromit, is appointed OBE. Park, 39, whose work has won three Oscars. "I would never have expected it in a million years," he said. "I have just been doing what I enjoy doing, and people keep wanting to give me things for it."

Zandra Rhodes, for three decades one of Britain's most innovative fashion designers, is appointed CBE. Fans of her dramatic clothes and outsize jewellery over the past 30 years include Diana, Princess of Wales.

☐ Marcus Hilton, 36, and his wife Karen, 35, of Rochdale, who have been ballroom partners for nearly 20 years and are seven times world professional champions, are appointed MBEs.

The designer Zandra Rhodes is appointed CBE; the actor Donald Sinden receives a knighthood

Cowdrey sent to the other Lords

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

SIR Colin Cowdrey today becomes the first Briton to have received a life peerage exclusively for his services to sport.

The former Kent and England captain, who scored 7,624 runs in 114 Tests for England, gains his elevation for his work as chairman of the International Cricket Council from 1989 to 1993. He also chaired the Downing Street Sports Ambassadors project set up by John Major.

Cowdrey is the first cricketer to become a peer since the late Learie Constantine, the West Indian all-rounder, who was also a successful lawyer and high commissioner, received the award in 1970.

Mike Atherton, the current England captain, is appointed an OBE, only six days after England's momentous victory in the first Test against Australia, while knighthoods go to Peter O'Sullevan, the BBC racing commentator, and Chay Blyth, the yachtsman.

O'Sullevan, 79, was unable to celebrate with a drink yesterday because he was resting in bed, with a "relaxed throat", while learning the colours of the jockeys for his 50th Royal Ascot, which begins on Tuesday. Yesterday he was unable to travel to York for the race meeting.

He said: "I have been told to take it easy by the doctor and am taking anti-biotics so I can't have any alcohol. It is is most unexciting. But it does not dilute the honour at all."

Blyth first made history when he rowed the North Atlantic with Captain John Ridgway in 1966. Four years later, he sailed non-stop around the world against the prevailing winds.

Speaking from Boston, in the United States, where he is heading the organisation of the BT Global Challenge race, Blyth, 57, said: "There is a dream about this because of my working-class background. My father, after all, was a railwayman. A knighthood will get a lot of getting used to. I am very, very excited. It is a tribute to all my sailing staff. The honour is the result of a team effort."

John Woodcock, page 48

Efficiency watchdog is life peer

SIR Peter Levene, the man who saved the Government more than £700 million a year by cutting waste in Whitehall, today becomes a life peer (*writes Valerie Elliott*).

Spotted by Michael Heseltine when he was Defence Secretary, Sir Peter, 56, has since held a number of government and senior business posts.

Until the election, however, he was the Prime Minister's adviser on efficiency and effectiveness and set up a powerful team at the heart of Government to audit other departments.

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, have recognised the value of the efficiency unit and it has already been enlisted to identify more savings.

Sir Peter, who is married with three children, is a former chairman of London Docklands Light Railway and a former chairman and chief executive of Canary Wharf, and now works as an adviser to Morgan Stanley.

continued from previous page

serv commty Thamesmead. Mrs C Charlton, serv commty Tollerton. Mrs M O Chilcott, serv WRVS, Swansea. Mrs M Child, serv Relate, Lowestoft and Gt Yarmouth. Mrs J Chilvers, MoD. J W Chipperfield, serv jrnlsm and commty, Oxford. R L Christie, frmr Grampian Television plc. T Luk Wah Chu, pres, NE Chinese Assoc, serv to commty rels. T W Churchill, serv disbld minewrkrs. J H Clapson, ambulance paramedic, Deal. Miss C E Clark, serv RAF Assoc Sussex. D A Clark, frmr Chf Supt, nat sec Police Supts' Assoc Eng and Wales. Miss L G Clark, serv environ. P Clark, field engr, humanr serv frmr Yug. Miss M S Cleaver, Housing Centre Trust. R Clement, serv commty Bongate Darlington. J W Cload, key keeper, Martello Twr, serv conservn. Miss D Coates, serv air rifle shootg for pple with disabs. Mrs M A Coffin, Grantham Hosp NHS Trust. Mrs H Cohen, serv to magisty Cardiff. Mrs M Conlon, serv children with disabs. Mrs J J Connor, HM Brd of Inland Re. D E Cook, HM Customs and Excise. R Cook, leader Rushcliffe Bor Ccl. E W Cooke, serv comty Alphington. J W Cormack, lect maths, Cardonald College. S A Costello, serv educ and trnng. V A C Lady Cotterell, charit serv commty Hereford and Worc. Mrs E L Von Heussen-Countryman, serv victims of stalking and harassmnt. Sister M A Coyle, headteacher, St Patrick's Primary School, Greenock. S W Cracknell, Det Con, Metropolitan Police. A Crawford, serv to educ. Sister W M Crawford, sessional chaplaincy ass, HM Prison Blundeston. J W Croft, serv Lower Wensleydale Young Farmers Club, N Yorks. Mrs E Crook, serv North British Hsng Assoc. Mrs M Crossle, serv tourism Dumfries and Galloway. L G Crump, London Underground Ltd. M J Cullen, pub serv. Mrs B Cumiskey, LB Camden, serv housing. The Rev I S Currie, Victim Support Scotland, charit serv. R Curry, cinema projectt, serv to film histry and commty Doncaster. C R Cuthbert, serv the RAF Assoc Wales.

J Dalgleish, Scot Off. Mrs E M Daly, DoE. Mrs L V Danson, serv to SSAFA. Miss S M McKinnon Darroch, form Exec Off, UK Pass Agency. Mrs C M Davenport, serv to comm, W Mid. B W Davidson, dep dir, Comm War Graves Comm. J S Davies, serv to Fishguard Mus Fest. M W Davies, form consrv, For Comm. R W Davies, dir int markt, Target Technology, serv to unmanned air veh ind. A Davis, rail op, GNER, serv to pub tran. Mrs C L Davis, form arboriculturist, DoE. Mrs E M Davis, serv to comm, Rugeley, Staffs. Mrs Y Dawe, nat train prog man, Remploy, serv to training and dis people, Gwent. C Dawson, fisherman, Northum. J A Dayer, serv to comm, Droitwich Spa, Her & Worc. Mrs E Deacon, serv to comm, Tow Law, Co Durham. Mrs M Dean, form per sec, HMP Bullingdon. W C Dees, serv to Scots Fish Museum, Anstruther, Fife. M J Dene, serv to comm Guernsey. L A Dennis, tour guide, serv to tourism, SE England. A D Dewar, trustee, Menzies Charitable Trust, serv to build cons. Mrs A G Dobson, dist org, WRVS, Midloth, serv to comm. H Dodds, serv to dairy ind. Mrs M F Doran, serv to arts. Mrs J Dormer, serv to comm, NE Lon. Mrs D Dowling, serv to National Blood Service. T W Downes, form grp dir, env eng, Varity Perkins Group, serv to tech. W Drummond, Supt, Fife Constab, serv to pol. Mrs M G Dudgeon, serv to comm, Sutherland. Mrs W S Duncan, form Higher Exec Off, DSS.

Rev Canon J B Eardley, Dioc dir educ, CoE, Coventry, serv to ed. Mrs J Eden, form sec to dir, plann and tran, Leic CC, serv to loc gov. C Edgar, for services to the Army Cadet Force Northumberland. Paul Martin Edwards, vice-pres, Genzyme, serv to biotech ind. V J Edwards, Town Clerk, Caldicot, Monmouth, serv to comm. R E Eley, serv to Clydach Hosp LoF, Swansea. Miss A R Elton, Macmillan Nurse, St Peter's Hosp NHS Trust, Surrey, serv to health. Mrs J F Epton, serv to Girls Friendly Soc. Mrs L A Evans, serv to archery. Mrs M G Ewart, head, The Drive Prim School, Gateshead, serv to educ.

Sister M C Fanning, serv to educ. S T Fearne, Admin Off, HMC&E. Miss J Finestone, hum serv, Croatia. Mrs E Fisher, serv to comm, Seaton, Cum. S Fitches, serv to Brit Red Cross. F W Fleman, insp, Imm Serv. P G Fletcher, serv to Brit Nuc Test Vets' Assoc. D N Flower, form ops dir, Confed of Pass Trans UK, serv to pub tran. Miss V J Fone, chief account, cent board of fin, serv to CoE. Maj J A Forsythe, serv to maritime cons. Mrs E M Fountain, admin asst, HM Cust & Ex. T A France, serv to Afro-Carib comm, Leeds. M Franks, chf exec, Brit Qual Found, serv to ind. Miss R H Frizzelle, servi to comm, Maulden, Beds.

Mrs P A Gardiner, form sen per sec, DoH. T P Gardner, Sgt, Dyfed-Powys Pol, serv to community. D F Gaskell, cons psychiatrist, Argyll and Bute NHS Trust, serv to med. Mrs P C George, serv to comm, Kettering, Northants. D Getty, serv to Fire Service. Mrs A M Gibberd, serv to Relate, Basingstoke, Hants. Miss A G Gibbs, serv to Brit Polio Fellowship, Wolverhampton. G Glanville, serv to elderly, Thorverton, Devon. Mrs L S Glasser, dir, Science and Tech Reg Org, N Scotland, serv to science and eng. R J Goodridge, postman, serv to PO and comm, Carmarthen, Dyfed. Mrs P M Gordon, serv to comm, Skye and Lochalsh. Mrs C P Graham, per exec sec, DoSS. D A Grant, MD, Highland Stoneware, serv to tableware ind. J M Gray, serv to comm, Linlithgow, W Loth. E W Gray, gen man, Palatine Prods, serv to empl dis peop. J H Green, serv to Paher Trust. Miss P H Greene (Mrs Richardson), actor, serv to rad dram. A Greenwood, butler, Sen Comm Rm, serv to Trin Coll, Univ of Oxford. R Greig, chair, Whitfield Crime Prev Pan, serv to comm, Dundee. B J Grey, serv to Bekonscot Model Village, Bucks. E R Griffiths, serv to Royal British Legion in York. Colin Grimshaw, Brd of Vis, HMP Leeds, serv to prisoner welf. C J Grove, serv to West Mid Pol Choir. J J Gunning, hon treas, Brit Limbless Ex-Serv Assoc, serv to ex-serv comm.

Mrs B Hackett, serv to tour, West Abbey, London. Mrs B J Hall, Div Comm Guiding, Gosport, serv to Guiding. Mrs E A Fosbroke Hall, chair, Hants Mencap Socs, serv to young people. T Hall, chair of govs, Audenshaw High School, Tameside, serv to educ. J Hallows, serv to Roy BritLegion, Chester. Mrs N Hamer, typist, Lord Chancellor's Dept. J D Hamilton, strat weap fire cont equipt consit, GEC Marconi, serv to def ind. Mrs M Hancock, school crossing pat, Birmingham Common, Chesterfield, serv to road safety. W V Hanley, dep MD TNT Express, serv to freight ind. H L Harbottle, serv to comm, Minster-in-Thanet. Mrs M Hargrave, serv to Arth and Rheum Coun, SEast England. J H

Hargreaves, chief exec, Training 2000, Blackburn, serv to training. J Harrigan, chair, Glasgow Assoc Fam Supp Grps, serv to prev drug misuse. Mrs A G Harris, serv to eld people, Minehead. J J Harris, bus man, Electro-Optical Systems, Avimo, serv to def industry. Mrs V Harris, serv to journalism and comm, Manchester. T J Harrison, serv to sport for peop with disab, East Midlands. T G Harrop, advis and inspec man, Chesh Educ Auth, serv to educ. Miss A D Hart, asst cur, V&A. Miss M Hartley, serv to cult and hist of Yorks. Miss G A Hartnoll, form hd fib and info serv, BFI, serv to film and TV. Mrs B N Hatton, serv to Eng Coun. Mrs S Parke-Hatton, Prin Fire Con Off, Lancs Fire Brig, serv to Fire Serv. R L Hawkridge, serv to comm, Highgate and South Ruislip, Midsex. K J Haydon, serv to war disab people. J M Heyman, form Chief Comman, Leics Spec Constab, serv to pol. K J Headspeath, farm man, Glengorm Est, serv to agric. A W Healey, rev collr cust serv, Seeboard, serv to elec ind and comm, Kent. R Hedgecock, serv to Submarine Old Comrades' Assoc, Merseyside. Prof S Heptinstall, serv to comm, Bramcote, Notts. M J Heron, dir, empl pol, Brit Footwear Assoc, serv to footwear ind. Mrs B Heyes, serv to League of Friends St Helens Hosp, Merseyside. S Hill, serv to Royal Tank Reg Assoc and Territorial Army, Nottingham. F Hilton, works comwr, dynamics division, BAe, serv to def ind. Mrs K M Hilton, serv to ballroom dancing. M E Hilton, serv to ballroom danc. David Hiorns, prod man, Bruntingthorpe Gravels, serv to quarrying. R G Hitchings, qual assur man, Remploy, serv to employ disbld, Bristol. C B Hobart, serv to comm, Oxon. C A Hogg, form dir, NE Wales Vol Serv Coun, serv to comm, Clwyd. Miss A Holmes, serv to mus in Grimsby. R Holmes, serv to Royal Brit Leg. Mrs M S Holroyd, clin nurse man, Gt Glasgow Hlth Bd, serv to hlth care. Mrs M J Hood, serv to Brit Red Cross Soc, E Sussex. Mrs D F How, admin off, Highways Agency, DoT. Mrs M A Howells, serv to CAB, Radnor. Mrs E M Huggard, char serv, S Wales. Mrs M Humes, serv to hlth care. Mrs E J Humphreys, serv to eldrly. Mrs M J Hurrell, serv to Nat Schizo Fell, Welwyn GC, Herts. Mrs P Hutchinson, serv to CAB.

Miss J A Ingilby, serv to cult and host, Yorks. N Ioannides, form chief sec force pol off, MoD. Mrs C M Ireland, serv to Alzheimer's Dis Soc, Guildford.

P Jackman, serv to Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. D W Jackson, form off serv super, Brit Waterways, serv to Brit Waterways. M C Jackson, supt, Essex Pol, serv to pol and comm, Harlow. C F Jago, serv to Ex-PoW Assoc. Mrs S James, char serv to comm, Aberdare, South Wales. L P Jarvis, serv to eld and disab people and Royal British Legion, Tingewick, Bucks. Mrs C Jeffery, school crossing ward, Devon, serv to road safety. M McCarter Jervis, serv to comm, Rhondda Valley. Mrs S J Johnston, man, Dover Couns Centre, serv to ship ind and counselling. D Johnstone, linesman, Scottish Hydro-Electric, serv to elec ind. Mrs I G Joly, serv to Hants Prob Serv. J T Jones, serv to Coventry and Warwicks Chamber of Comm and Ind. M Jones, form dir, Leics Victims of Crime Support Scheme. T O Jones, serv to loc govt, Wales. R S Jordan, door keeper, 10 Downing St. B R Joyce, serv to arch cons, Derbyshire. K S Jul, sub-post master, serv to PO and char serv, London.

B Kashket, tailor, serv to armed forces. Mrs L Kearns, serv to comm, Johnson Fold Est, Bolton. Mrs H R Kagle, serv to Hous Assoc movement, SE Wales. Mrs D M Kelly, char ser to comm, Isle of Man. P J Kelly, driver, MoD. P G Kelly, GP, Glouc, serv to med. Mrs A A Kennedy, per asst, dir, Northumbria region, NT, serv to conserv. J Kennedy, serv to childminding, Scotland. Mrs J G Kepple, serv to Guide Assoc. G W Kerrison, serv to comm, North Elmham, Norfolk. Mrs P G Kerry, per man, HM Treas. J Kersh, serv to South Shields Kidney Res Fund. Mrs H J Brownlie-Kind, Higher Exec Off, HM Young Offrs' Inst, Feltham. Mrs L D King, head, St Joseph's RC Prim School, Aldershot, serv to educ. J Kinnin, coxswain, Ramsey Lifeboat, Isle of Man, serv to safety at sea. P E Kinton, county vice-pres, Grt London SW Scout Association, serv to Scouting. Mrs J M Kirby, serv to comm, Leatherhead.

Miss J M Lansdown, asst account, House of Lords. J D Lavers, serv to comm, Newchurch, IoW. P O Lavery, pub serv. S J Lavery, form SEO, DSS. D Lea, form memr, NE reg board, Scottish Nat Heritage, serv to env. H Lealman, serv to comm, Huttons Ambo, Yorks. Mrs P A Lee, serv to riding in countryside. J M Leeder, chair, Diss Crime Prev Pan, Norfolk, serv to crime prev. W R Leese, serv to com, Trent Vale, Staffs. Miss B Lewis, serv to Save the Children, Iraq. T R Lewis, Sefton Met BC, serv to comm, Sefton, Merseyside. Mrs S M Linton, serv to Cancer Res Cam, Girvan, Ayrshire. E Littler, serv to Boys' Brigade, St Helen's, Merseyside. V Llewellyn, serv to comm, Rhiwbina, Cardiff. G M Lloyd, investment admin man, Smiths Industries plc, serv to pen invest. W J Logan, serv to educ. Mrs M M Loram, serv to bus and comm, Cheshire. G D Lord, serv to comm, Piddlehinton, Dorset. Mrs H D Love, serv to comm, Motherwell and Wishaw. A Lowe, form dir, Merseyside Trnng and Ent Coun, serv to trning and ind. C B Lowe, serv to archi. N Lowe, serv to PO and Civ Serv Sanatorium Soc. Mrs B J Lowndes, serv to Comm Assoc Movement. G Loyd, serv to speciality food and drink ind. Mrs A E Luce, serv to mus on Jersey. G R Lurring, serv to the police.

A MacDonald, serv to agri journ. Mrs J M MacDonald, DSS. Mrs M J Macdonald, cons ophth and clin dir, Queen Marg Hosp, Dunfermline, serv to med. W R MacKenzie, crofter, serv to agric. A I MacLean, ret sub-off, Strathclyde Fire Brig, serv to fire serv and comm. J P MacLean, coxswain mech, Oban Lifeboat, serv to safety at sea. J MacLeod, serv to Skye Mount Resc Team. R L McMillan, roadman for A82, Inverness to Fort Augustus, serv to road safety and env. F Macrory, midwife, serv to health care, Manchester. T A Mack, serv to Scout Assoc, Menstrie, Clackmannan. M Magnall, serv to comm in Bury, Greater Man. W S Magowan, serv to ABTA NW Eng. M R Mahon, serv to econ dev. J C Malfait, serv to cricket, Northants. R H Mann, form fish biolt, Inst of Freshwater Ecol, serv to fish ecol. Fr F Maple, char serv. A E Marks, fin bus man, National Gnd Co, serv to elec ind. G Marley, sec, Campsie Black Watch FC, serv to youth football in Scotland. R C Massey, organist, Hereford Cath, serv to music. Mrs I Matthew, lately higher exec off, Welsh Off. G A Matthews, elec foreman, VSEL, serv to def ind. Mrs M Appleby-Matthews, pres, Tamworth Ladies' Lifeboat Guild, Staffs. R Matthews, aux coastguard, HM Coastguard, serv to safety at sea. J Mattiello, serv to comm, Newton, Birmingham. Mrs J M Maxwell, serv to War Widows' Assoc. P Y Mayer, serv to Bradians Assoc and young people. Mrs J K McCallum, serv to Shelt Hous and Workshop Proj, NE England. Mrs A McClean, serv to educ. Mrs M S McConnell, serv to Arth and Rheum Coun, Scotland. W C McConnell, serv to loc hist and the comm. Mrs L McCoy, servs to comm. I G McCreath, serv to comm, Berwick-upon-Tweed. G M McCrone, div cdr, Cumbria Constab, serv to pol. P McDermott, serv to young people. W J McDowell, serv to educ. Mrs J McEvoy, serv to prisoner welf, HMP Preston. G McFall, serv to elderly people. J A McKinnell, pens pol dir, Railways Pension Trustee Co, serv to rail ind. Mrs M H McKinney, serv to Brit Diab Assoc. Miss C W McLachlan, form admin off, HSE. Mrs M T McLaren, serv to comm, Newtonmore, Inverness. Mrs B R McMurray, serv to the Not Forgotten Assoc. F M McNamara, form man, 2, empl serv, DfEE. J K McSherrie, member, Freetown Soc, Kingston-upon-Hull, serv to the comm, Hull. J McVitty, pub serv. Mrs J Mellor, empl serv, DfEE. Mrs C R Meredith, serv to Riding for Disabled Assoc. Miss A Middleton off-in-charge, Warwick Hse Respite Care Centre, Birmingham, serv to health care. B Middleton, form mem, Sutton on Sea TC, Lincs, serv to loc gov and comm. Miss C A Middleton, serv to dietetics. Mrs B J Miles, serv to commy, Meadowlands, Camb. K Millensize, Home Off. J G Milne, hd training, Approved Driv Inst Nat Joint Coun, serv to driv and road safety. Mrs Y V Milne, pres, UK Rett Syndrome Assoc, serv to health care. Mrs J Mitchell, super, Mildam coffee shop, Univ of Portsmouth, serv to educ. Mrs A Moffat, serv to elderly people and Brit Red Cross, Berwicks. Miss P Moffatt, Chair, advis pan to London Comm on Accessible transport, serv to mobility of dis people. G Mohan, GP, Suffolk, serv to med. G W Montgomery, serv to Donaldson Trust, Edinburgh, and to deaf people. D H Moody, form cont, veh insp serv, FTA, serv to freight ind. I J Moore, const, Avon and Somerset Constabu, serv to comm and pol. G Morales, serv to mus, Lincoln. W F Moreton, serv to campanology. Mrs M Morgan, headteacher, Cornist Park County Prim School, Flint, serve to educ. R S Morgan, form MD, SIMS Med Dist, serv to export. R Morgan, serv to comm, Rhondda Valley. Mrs E G Morley, serv to comm, Fetcham, Surrey. P Morron, asst dir socwork, Crim Just Serv, Glasgow, serv to soc care prov. Miss J Morris, sec to dir, CAMPUS University, Salford, serv to educ and comm. D Morrison, forwarder op, For Comm. F Mortimer, serv to dis people in Southampton. Miss D P Moule, day care serv man, Glanrhyd Hosp, Bridgend, serv to nursing, Wales. K B Mulhern, serv to broadcasting for dis people. Mrs J W Munden, pubs off, Inst of Arable Crop Res, serv to arable crop res. J B Murphy, serv to the St John Amb Brig, Wales. B Murray, empl serv, DfEE.

W Neill, serv to assoc football and char serv. R F Nelson, ops man, veh insp exec agency, DoT. Miss M J Newing, exec ed, Dental Practice, serv to dental prof. Mrs M I Newns, form sen per sec, HM Board of In Rev. Mrs V M Newton, human serv, Eastern Eur. W R Newton, human serv, Eastern Europe. A S Nicol, Lochaber Mountain Res Assoc, serv to mountain resc. Miss M M Nisbet, serv to comm and womens' hockey, Essex. Mrs T A Nixon, mus dir, New Kilpatrick Singers, Glasgow, serv to music. A Norburn, serv to Rotherham Hospitals. Mrs D Norris, paed sen staff nurse, Lewisham Hospitals Trust, serv to health care. F J North, form chief clerk, Romford CC, Lord Chanc Dept.

B M O'Boyle, sen prof and tech officer, House of Commons. Fr E O'Brien, serv to comm. W J O'Reilly, serv to short track speed skating. Mrs A M Oldland, serv to Living Paintings Trust. Mrs I J Orr, aux nurse, Dept Clin Onc, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, serv to health care. T G Osmond, serv to Wildlife Cons, Berks.

Mrs D M Pain, serv to comm, Wollaton, Notts. Mrs M B Pallett, pers sec, govt off for West Midlands, DTI. Mrs E Palmer, serv to ind. N T Pandya, serv to comm, Brent, London. R J Parker, servs to comm, part sport, Pudsey, W Yorks. J S Parkes, serv to DoE Award Scheme, Midlands. R Parkinson, Off, Safety and Anal Serv, BNF plc, serv to empl rel. Mrs L Parrington, serv to comm, Great Glen, Leic. Mrs P A Parry, admin offi, MoD. Mrs J M Patchett, chief stew, MoD. I R Paterson, est man, Surrey Pol, servs to pol. F J Pattinlott, GP, Chesh, serv to med. B Patterson, serv to Sea Cadet Corps, Birmingham. Miss A S Pawson, serv to comm, Braemar, Aberdeenshire. Miss P Pearce, cabin serv dir, BA, char servs. E Pearson, East Rudham Parish Coun, Norfolk, serv to comm. D Pereira, sen eng off, BA, char servs. Mrs M L Perrens, serv to WRVS, E Sussex. D C Perry, serv to comm, Rochford, Essex. K C Perryman, serv to Reg Burns Centre, Pinderfields Hosp, Wakefield. E J Peterson, serv to baseball, Wales. D A Petherbridge, serv to judo. D J Pettitt, man, bus support, Lloyd's of London, serv to ins ind. J E Pickworth, chief surv, Ord Survey. E A Pinhorne, higher ind craftsman, HMP Kingston. Mrs P Ponnish, admin offi, Home Office. Mrs P H Pope, form school crossing patrol, Handbridge, Chester, serv to road safety. J G Porter, chair, Witham Third Dist Int Drainage Board, serv to land drainage, Lincs. J Potts, serv to forestry, N England. J F Powell, serv to Sea Cadet Corps, Wallsend. J S Powell, vol obs, Swansea, serv to Met Off. D F Powley, serv to Brit Limbless Ex-Serv Assoc, Gt Yarmouth and Lowestoft, Norfolk. B Price, form sen pris off, HMP Shrewsbury. Miss V L Price, serv to Nat Children's Orchestra. C R Privett, sen prof and tech off, MoD. V E Pullen, char servs, Dorchester, Dorset. Mrs M Purse, serv to comm, Evercreech, Somerset. J K Purser, serv to comm in Middlesex and Surrey. A B Quinn, serv to prob serv, Powys.

H V Radcliffe, vol observer, Notts, servs Met Office; Mrs J E Radley, servs comm, Market Lavington, Wilts; J Ramage, convenor, Scots Assn of Hlth Councils, servs hlth care; R Ramsey, servs Post Office; D P Rayfield, servs RNIB, Surrey; V Rea, foundr and formr dir, Bede Gallery, Jarrow, servs comm; K S Read, Senr Exec Officer, DfEE; A W Redwood, charit servs, Porthcawl; Mrs M A Redwood, charit servs, Porthcawl; W J Rees, servs comm, Brecon Powys; Mrs B W Reid, gen sec, Bexley Churches Housg Assoc; J A Reid, jockey, servs horse racing; R A Revels, servs police; Mrs P I Richards, serve comm, Oxford; Mrs B M Roberts, former office mgr, Port Talbot Mag Court, servs magistracy; D S Roberts, servs young people, Denbigh; E R Roberts, trade marks agent, Elwyn Roberts, servs trade marks; T Roberts, servs comm, Truro; C B Robinson, Snr Div Officer, Notts Police, servs police; Mrs J V Robinson, Exec Officer, DSS; D Rogers, head gardener, Northern College Residential Adult Education, Wentworth Castle, servs educ and hort; P A Rogers, Snr Exec Officer, Customs and Excise; Mrs P H Roome, servs King's Lynn Hospitals; Mrs E Rosenquit, servs Jewish comm, Brighton and Hove; F C Ross, Professional and Technology Officer, MoD; Mrs D M Rosser, servs hockey, Wales; S B Rousell, servs Friends of All Saints' Church, Sutton Bingham, Somerset; N Rowe, servs Devonport Management and defence ind; D J Rowley, servs Immigration Detention Centre, Campsfield House, Oxfordshire; Mrs S B Roy, servs Children's Society, Harrow; Mrs E E Roylance, servs comm, Gotham, Notts; Mrs B J Ruffell, member, Ofwat Eastern Customer Service Cttee, servs water consumers.

Mrs J M Sandison, founder and curator, Tingwall Agr Museum, servs museums and comm on Shetland; F Sansom, servs comm, Middleton, Manchester; Mrs J E M Saunders, organiser, Bath Blind Club and Blind Handicap Club; Mrs L A F Saunders, former messenger, MoD; T B Saunders, D1-Regional mgr, DSS; R L Scott, operations mgr, BT, servs telecommunications; W Scott, business development mgr, Nexus (Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Exec), servs pub transport; S J Sabire, servs comm, Congleton; Mrs E A Shadrick, servs comm, Bradworthy, Devon; Mrs J Shannon, Local Officer 2, DSS; R Sharp, head, Hartford Manor Co Primary School, Northwich, Cheshire, servs education; F D Shaw, servs comm, Penrith; K B Sheehy, servs police; D R Shepherd, umpire, servs cricket; Mrs M H Shepherd, servs elderly people, Leics; A Sherwin, servs Sunshine Hour Swimming Club; J Shorrock, milkman, servs dairy ind, Preston; Mrs M F Sinclair, nursery nurse, Haddington Nursery School, East Lothian, servs young people; P B Skews, SO (Rtnd), Cornwall Fire Brigade, servs fire service; Mrs J M Sleeth, servs Salvation Army and community; Miss A Smallwood, secretary to Vice-Chancellor, Oxford Univ, servs higher educ; E Smedley, area officer, Warwicks Special Constab, servs police; D Victor-Smith, servs Farnham Youth Choir, Surrey; Mrs M L Smith, servs Oxfam, Liverpool; S H Smith, servs comm and nature conservation, Louth, Lincs; W Smith, Asst Regional Supt of Works, Scots Office; Miss W M Smith, servs comm, Wetheringsett, Suffolk; E S Snoxall, member, South Beds District Cl, servs comm, Caddington, Beds; C J Sparrow, sub-postmaster, servs Post Office and comm, Laxfield, Suffolk; Mrs M Srebemy, servs comm, Finsbury Park; A J Stagg, snr scientific officer, Def Eval and Research Agcy, MoD; PC C J Stagg, Met Police, servs police and community; Mrs J M Stanford, servs WRVS, West Midlands; R Staniforth, leader, Wales Methodist Youth Club, Sheffield; Mrs J H Steele, former Valuation Exec, Inland Revenue; D P Stephens, servs Air Training Corps, Cornwall; J W W Stevenson, servs comm, Glasgow; J A Stewart, pub services; PC A G Strachan, Tayside Police, servs police and community; I Strong, dir, Yorkshire Rural Comm Cl; Mrs J Strout, snr personal sec, Cabinet Office; D W Sully, former SO (Rtnd), Somerset Fire Brigade, servs Fire Service; Miss J A Summers, personal sec, Inland Revenue; R E Sutton, servs comm, Oundle Northants; M J Swaffer, servs comm, Great Chart, Kent; Miss M Syal, actress and writer, servs drama.

W Tagg, servs information technology educ; Mrs A Tapling, servs comm, Woking; Mrs P C Tarsey, servs British Red Cross, Lincs; B S Taylor, servs comm, Thurrock, Essex; J D Taylor, Snr Exec Officer, MoD; P W Thomas, servs north eastern counties ABA; Miss J E Thompson, Admin Officer, DSS; K Thompson, servs comm, Salisbury; Mrs W M Tidbury, servs comm, High Wycombe, Bucks; J Tiffney, servs local govt and envir hlth; I D Todd, Chief Commandant, Met Special Constab, servs police; A Topping, servs comm, particularly Scouting, Golborne, Cheshire; Mrs S C Torr, servs adult literacy; Mrs K L Trewern, home help, Cornwall CC, servs comm; Mrs M R Tucker, support mgr 1, DfEE; A H Turner, servs comm, Lincs; A T Turner, case worker, Inland Revenue; R W G Turner, servs comm, Islington.

R G V Venables, servs motor cycle journlsm; F L Vickerman, servs comm, Irchester, Northants; Mrs J E Vincent, servs comm, Fleet, Hants.

F Waddington, servs Slaidburn Young Farmers' Club, Lancs; R F J Wainwright, Vol Ldg Firefighter, N Yorks Fire and Rescue Service; Mrs D Wake, caretaker, Lincs and Humberside Univ, servs educ; Mrs C C Walker, servs Leonard Cheshire Fndn; G A Walker, servs def ind; Mrs M Walker, chief speech and language therapist, St George's Hosp Med School, London, servs hlth care; Mrs K Wareham, charit servs, Coventry; G A H Warner, aircraft restorer; Mrs F M Warrack, chmn, Roy Infirm of Edinburgh Volunteers, servs hlth care; Mrs D A Waskett, Def Eval and Research Agency, MoD; J K Waterhouse, servs disaster relief and engrg; Miss J E F Waters, former chief welfare officer, CPS; A V R Watson, servs local govt and comm, Kincardineshire and Deeside; W J Weatherley, servs John Kirk House, Battersea; L T Weaver, hon archivist, Harwich, servs local history and comm; Mrs C J Webber, student admissions and fin guidance mgr, Highbury College, Portsmouth; J Webster, farm mgr, Snaigow Estates, servs agriculture and comm, Blairgowrie, Perthshire; C L C Weedon, former chauffeur to Lt Govnr, Guernsey; Canon E A Wells, servs comm, Ipswich; P Welsh, Elstree and Borehamwood Town Cl, servs film preservation and hist; Mrs S Whalley, servs comm, St Helens; J B White, servs journalism; A C F Whitehead, serve Terrence Higgins Trust; Mrs S L Whitehead, servs Dowty Aerospace Propellers; A J S Williams, servs young pple and sci, Mid and West Wales; A C Williams, servs ind Wales; J H Williams, hon sec Porthcawl Lifeboat Station, Mid Glamorgan, servs RNLI; J H Williams, servs young pple and music, Llanelli, Dyfed; Mrs M L Williams, snr nurse, Prince Charles Hosp, Merthyr Tydfil, servs hlth care; Mrs R Williams, former school cook, Neath Abbey Inf School, servs educ and community; Mrs R E A Williams, foster carer, Walsall, servs young people; Mrs V A Williams, higher exec officer, MoD; Miss E Wilson, admin officer, Companies House, DTI; J W Wilson, hon treas, Maidstone Comm Support Centre; servs comm; M J Wilson, servs exhibitions ind; B M Withington, regs mgr, Brit Gas, servs gas industry; C Wolley, anti-smuggling mgr, Customs and Excise; T Wood, sector officer, Coastguard Agency, Transport Dept; Mrs J R Woodhouse, support grade 1, DSS; Mrs S R M Woods, former school crossing patrol officer, Wilts CC, servs road safety; R E Worsell, aux coastguard, Birling Gap, Sussex, servs safety at sea; Mrs H M Wright, servs Save Children Fund, Tyne and Wear; Mrs J V Wyatt, receptionist/telephonist, Customs and Excise.

J R Yarwood, dir of reconstruction, Mostar, humanitarian servs former Yugoslavia; Mrs C J Young, support manager 3, Env Dept.

DIPLOMATIC & OVERSEAS

Knights bachelor

James David **McGregor**, for distinguished public service in Hong Kong. Arthur Burton **Weller**, for services to British-Australian relations.

Order of St Michael and St George

KCMG: David Elliott Spiby **Blatherwick**, HM Ambassador, Cairo. Robert Andrew **Burns**, Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Anthony Michael **Goodenough**, British High Commissioner, Ottawa. Marrack Irvine **Goulding**, lately Under-Secretary (Political), United Nations.

CMG: Dr T D Adams, serv Br comml ints in Azerbaijan. G R Archer, High Commnr, Valletta. D R C Christopher, form HM Ambassador, Addis Ababa. S L Cowper-Coles, Cnslr, FCO. R F Cooper, Minister, HM Emb, Bonn. J I Denny, serv to refurb of FCO. P J Freeman, Cnslr, FCO. Mrs A F Glover, form dir of OSCE Off for Dem Insts and Hum Rts, Warsaw. S J Gomersall, Min and UK dep perm rep to UN, New York. A N Hoole, form HM Governor, Anguilla. N H McMillan, Cnslr, FCO. Dr J L Munby, Dir, Br Ccl, Athens. M B Nicholson, Mnr-Cnslr, HM Emb, Moscow. A R Paul, UK Rep, Jnt Lisn Gp, HK. R P Ralph, HM Gov, Falkland Iss. K R Tebbit, form dir of resources, FCO. S J L Wright, lately dir, EU affairs, FCO.

Order of the British Empire

KBE: Arthur Leycester Scott **Coltman**, HM Ambassador, Bogota. Donald **Yam-kuen Tsang**, Financial Secretary, HK.

CBE

Miss V M Atkins, serv to Br-French relns. M G Barrow, publ and commty serv in HK. M J Dinham, pers advsr to HM Gov, HK. Hui Ki-on, Commnr, R HK Pol Force. S Ip Sik-on, serv teachr traing in HK. P Lai Hing-ling, Sec for Scrty, HK. B Leung Po-wing, Sec for Plang, Env and Lands, HK. Mrs F Lieh-Mak, publ serv in HK. N Ng Wing-fui, Sec for Consti Aff, HK. G Siu, Sec for Trnsprt, HK. D E Wilkinson, publ serv in Bermuda.

OBE

A J Abbott, HM Consul-Gen, Perth. Prof D K Adams, serv to N American studies in UK. Mrs B M Allen, serv to botany latterly in Spain. K C B J Allen, QC, publ serv in Montserrat. Mrs L Archibald, vol publ serv latterly as chm of Wilton Park Acad Ccl. C R Armstrong, serv to Br trade with Lat America. A Au Siu-kee, serv to hrtge conservn in HK.

F R Baker, form first sec, HM Emb, Ankara. Dr P W Baker, serv to Chinese pol refugees in UK. J Banks, serv to Ditchley Foundn in Canada. P R Barton, form first sec, Br High Commn, New Delhi. P G Batey, serv to Br trade with China. M J Bennett, form first sec, HM Emb, Vienna. R J Blake, form sec for works, HK. W H J Blanchard, 1st sec, FCO. F Bong Shu-ying, serv civil enging and constrn in Far East. N Brentnall, serv bankg oseas latterly in Armenia. J H Bunney, Cnslr, HM Emb, Riyadh.

M C St J Cannon, serv Br trade with Lat America. S Chatt, serv newspaper publishg in Hungary. Prof Chen Char-nie, serv publ health in HK. M Cheng Mo-chi, publ and vol commty serv in HK. Mrs F Cheung Mui-ching, chair, Eq Opps Commn, HK. P Cheung, Dir of Fire Serv, HK. Chiang Chen, serv to modn of manufg ind in HK. J Chow Ming-kuen, JP for vol commty serv in HK. N B Coltman, serv Br Ints in Georgia, USA. S M Constant, serv UK-Norwegian relations. R G Cousins, ch sec, Turks and Caicos Islands.

D A Facey, form dir, Air Def Syst, Nato. A Yuen-ying (Mrs Tai Footman), serv to judi admin in HK. R C L Footman, Postmaster-Gen, HK. Canon J W Francis, serv to islanders' welf, Bermuda. Dr M Chan Fung Fu-chun, dir of health, HK. C E W M Geldt, serv Br ints in Bosnia. M R Griffiths, serv Br comml ints in Italy. J R Grundon, serv Br comml ints in Middle East. M R Hunter, vol serv to Br commty in Argentina. G Huskisson, First sec, FCO.

C I C Jackson, Min, HK Econom and Trade Affs Off, HM Emb, Washington. Mrs S Jin Sheng-hwa serv to promotion of lang transln in HK. A S Kane, serv Br busns ints in S California. S Lam Sui-lung, dir, Handover Ceremony Co-ord Off, HK. Lee Jark-pui, charit commty serv in HK. Lee Shing-see, Dir of Terry Devel, HK. T J Berners-Lee, serv glob computr networkg. M J Leonard, serv devel assistance in Zimbabwe.

K Frederick McGlynn, info co-ord, Govt House, HK. J A Miller, Dir of Hous, HK. R D Pope, Dir of Lands, HK. R H Rakusen, serv Br busns ints in HK. J A Richards, dir, Br Ccl, Thailand. P J Skelton, dir, Br Ccl, E Jerusalem. L F T Smith, sen adviser (MidEast and N Africa), Bank of England. P J Spaven, form dir, Br Ccl, Barcelona. Prof C Stevenson, serv spec educneeds in E Europe.

D Tang Wing-cheung, commty serv in HK. Tsang Yam-pui, DepComm, R HK Pol. Lt Col P M Williams, first sec, Prot Dept, FCO. F Wong Kwong-shing, serv finance in HK. Wong Tsan-kwong, Dep Commnr, R HK Pol. A Woo Chung-ho, serv to manufg industry and community in HK.

MBE

R J Abbott, form Ch Secur Offr, HM Emb, Cairo. K G Aston, serv AssocFootball in USA. Dr L ASt L Astwood, Ch Dental Offr, Turks and Caicos Iss. P N Barry, serv Eng lang teachg in Ecuador. Canon D Ward-Boddington, Anglican Chap, Oporto. Dr D M J Bond, serv educ and cultrl links between UK and Uzbekistan. B C Burrough, dep sec, Govt Hospitality Fund. Mrs G K Bush, serv art in Cayman Iss.

Miss A Chan Suk-wah, ch conf interp, HK. Chan Bing-woon, chm, E Dist Bd, HK. M Chan Hung-kee, vol servs to commty, HK. Chan Wing-kia Clifford, vol serv to aux med servs in HK. Chen Wen-shuen, Vincent dir, bldgs off, Chinese Univ, HK. Cheng Fook-hong, form Ch Supt, R HK Pol. Cheung Sam-cheong, Ass Reg Cdr, Civil Aid servs, HK. Cheung Wai-leung, serv sprt for disabled, HK. P M Ching Kwok-hoo, Sen Asst Commr, R HK Pol. Chiu Chun-bong, vol serv to commty, HK. N Chiu Sai-chuen, vol publ serv HK. Dr C Chow Po-wong, serv devel of health care in HK. Choy Ping-yin, Sen PEO, HK. Miss M L Y Cook, serv Br commty in Portugal. Mrs CP Courtauld, vol charit serv to commty in HK. J Curran, 1st sec, FCO. Miss A E Cutler, serv educ in Uganda.

Mrs S L Darra, Hon Br Consul, Montreux. Mrs R Davis, welf serv to Br commty Malta. G E U Dawson, vol serv as chm of Prison Visit Cttee Br Virgin Iss. Mrs M G Dolding, serv to care of cancer patients, Gibraltar. Canon J R Dorman, welfare and medical servs in SW Guyana.

D T Emmet, Sen Asst Commr, R HK Pol. N S Farndon, welf servs particularly through St John Ambul Serv, Italy.

Honours continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

N G **Fenwick**, form Ch Fire Off, Swaziland. Mrs A **Fullerton**, welf serv loc commty most recently in Morocco and Kuwait. Mrs J B H **Gardner**, serv nurs in Zambia. R D **Gibson**, form Oxfam rep, Rwanda. S **Ho Chc-leung**, asst dir of Educ, HK. Prof I J **Hodgkiss**, vol conserv and env serv to commty in HK. R **Hogarth**, 2nd sec, FCO. J C **BHowe**, serv univ educ in HK. J **Kirkpatrick**, vol serv to Br commty in Libya. **Kwan Shu-tsum**, asst dir of educ, HK. Mrs E **Pong Lau**, headmistress, Diocesan Girls' S, HK.

Dr M **Lau Wai-mei**, serv herit conserv in HK. Mrs L **Law**, servs at Govt House HK. C **Lee Ka-keung**, Dep Dep of Immig, HK. Mrs **Wong Lee Heung-lin**, sen pers sec, HK Govt. Miss M **Lee Yim-hung**, prin Chinese lang offr, HK Govt.

Lee Nam-sang, Govt Chem, HK. Miss C **Letherdy**, 2nd sec, FCO. **Leung Chi-kin**, Asst Prin Immig Offr, HK. G A **Lilley**, lately Project Liaison Offr, Br High Commn, Canberra. W **Lin Sun-mo**, serv industdevel in HK. E D **GLlewellyn**, pers advsr to HM Gov, HK. A **Lok Cham-choi**, vol serv as dep Commnr, Aux Med Servs, HK.

H R **Malcolm**, Ch Med Offr, Turks and Caicos Iss. J **Wynell-Mayow**, Asst Pol Advr, HK. M L A **McAllister**, dir, HK Youth Arts Fest. Miss S B **McLean**, pers asst, HM Consul-Gen, Washington. J I **Metcalfe**, form Admin, Euro Commty Liaison Unit, Gibraltar. M S T **Morgan**, 1st sec, Br High Commn, Valletta. G W T **Moulson**, local driver, HM Emb, Paris. A J **Mullins**, Sen Asst Commr, R HK Pol. **Ng Kwok-chuen**, serv to Post Office HK. R **O'Hara**, Sen Asst Dir, Mun Servs, HK.

A F **Parfitt**, 2nd sec, UK deleg to Org for Sec and Co-op in Europe, Vienna. Miss J **Patten**, pers asst to Pol Advr, HK. N W **Roseveare**, form Oxfam rep, Mozambique. Mrs C M **Ruhstorfer**, local Br V-Consul, Munich. Mrs C **Sakompant**, local entry clearance offr, HM Emb, Bangkok.

K A **Salkeld**, dep priv sec to Gov, HK. The RevW **Scott**, serv to commem of war dead in France. J M **Shannon**, dep pol adviser, HK. Miss A E **Shepherd**, prin asst sec, Treasury, HK. **Sin King-kui**, serv transln of HK laws into Chinese. Mrs **SSkiadopoulou**, serv horse ridg for handicapped in Greece. G R **Slater**, vol serv to Br commty in Libya. V **So Hing-woh**, serv hous and commty in HK. J B **Stillwell**, serv Br Ints in Portugal.

Mrs B M **Targett**, chair, Assoc of Br Women in Malaysia. J L **Tavares**, pub and vol welf serv Gibraltar. Miss E A **Collins-Taylor**, serv at Govt House, HK. **Tong Kin-wah**, Gov Elec and Mech Eng, HK. **Tse Kwok Fu**, Dep Reg Cdr, Civ Aid servs, HK. S D **Wilkinson**, serv Eng lang teachg and welf Madagascar. Miss F V **Wolland**, account, Br High Comm, Wellington. A **Wong Chi-yon**, serv tech and bus dev of HK. **Wong Chung-kee**, Supt of Posts, HK. J **Wong Tai-nang**, SPEO, HK. J **Wong Chun**, vol servs in fight against crime. **Wong On-yuen** serv music and arts in HK. **Ronny Wong Fook-hum**, vol commty and publ serv HK. Mrs A **Wong Wu Cheuk-lai**, supervr, Govt typg servs, HK. Mrs E **Wong Yeung Po-wo**, serv physio in HK. J **Au Yeung Pak-keung**, CEO, HK. **Yeung Ka-sing**, vol publ serv, HK. L **Yu Kam-kee**, vol comm serv HK.

Yachtsman Chay Blyth, seen here, right, before rowing the Atlantic in 1966 with John Ridgway, is knighted

POLICE & FIRE

Queen's Police Medal:

England and Wales Queen's Police Medal: I C **Beckett**, Ass Chf Con (Desig), Surrey Police. D J M **Donohoe**, Det Chf Supt, Dorset Pol. G A **Durno**, Det Insp Merseyside Pol. J W **Giffard**, Chief Cons, Staffs Pol. J G D **Grieve**, Cdr, Met Pol. P **Johnson**, Det Supt (Ret). B J **Luckhurst**, Cdr, Met Pol.

S D **Mannion**, Ass Chf Cons, Brit Transp Pol. M **Messinger**, Cdr, Met Pol.

Mrs L L **Newham**, Chf Supt, Met Pol. P R **Nove**, Ass Commr for City of London Pol. G R **O'Connell**, Ass Chf Cons (Desig), Lancs Cons. A B **Oliver**, Ass Chf Cons, Northumbria Pol. J T **Owen**, Ass Chf Cons (Desig), N Wales Pol. I G **Quinn**, Cdr, Met Pol. C J R **Roche**, Ass Chf Cons (Desig), W Midlands Pol. Miss M J **Webster**, Chf Supt, Gwent Cons.

Scotland Queen's Police Medal: C A **Milne**, Dep Cmmdt, Scottish Police Coll. J D **Welsh**, MBE Assis Chf Cons, Strathclyde Pol.

Northern Ireland Queen's Police Medal: F G **Duffy**, Supt, RUC. D B **Wallace**, Dep Chf Cons, RUC.

Channel Islands Queen's Police Medal: G W **Denning**, Supt, Guernsey.

Overseas Queen's Police Medal: M B **Dowie**, Chf Supt, Royal Hong Kong Police. S **Foo Tsun-kong** Chf Supt, Royal Hong Kong Police. G **Fung Siu-yuen** Chief Supt, Royal HK Police. P E **Halliday**, Chf Supt, Royal HK Police. M W **Horner**, Chf Supt, Royal HK Police. **Lee Ming-kwai**, Assis Commr of Police, Royal HK Police. E **Leung Chi-bun**, Chf Supt, Royal HK Police. **Ng Wai-kit**, Chf Supt, Royal HK Police. Miss M **Stradmoor**, Chf Supt, Royal HK Pol.

Queen's Fire Service Medal:

England and Wales Queen's Fire Service Medal: C **Cunliffe**, lately assis Div Off, Lancs Co FB. N S **Dickerson**, Chief Fire Offr, Leics Fire and Rescue Serv. Ro A **Graham**, Div Off 1, Gloucs Fire and Rescue Serv. P M **Holland**, Chf Fire Off, Beds Co Fire and Rescue Serv. B E **Smith**, Chf Fire Off, Norfolk Fire Service. W G **Welsh**, Sr Div Off, Kent FB.

Scotland Queen's Fire Service Medal: D A **Clark**, Assis Firemaster, Fife Fire and Rescue Service. A **Russell**, Firemaster, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade. J C G **Tait**, Sub Officer, Lothian and Borders FB.

Overseas Queen's Fire Service Medal: L W **Edmonds**, Chief Fire Officer, Gibraltar. **Pik Ying-keung**, Chf Fire Offr, Royal Hong Kong Fire Service.

Colonial Police and Fire Service Medal: J M H **Bicknell**, Sr Supt, Royal Hong Kong Police Force. B **Bill**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. R J **Booth**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Chan Ho-yuen**, Prin Fireman, Hong Kong Fire Service. **Chan Kui-man**, Supt (Ambulance), HK Fire Service. **Chau Kwok-kuen**, Station Sgt, Royal Hong Kong Police Force. **Cheung Kwok-kwan**, Sr Div Offr, Hong Kong Fire Service. **Cheung Yue-keung**, Prin Ambulanceman, HK Fire Service. **Choi Chor** Prin Fireman, HK Fire Service. **Choi Kwong-tai**, Sr Div Offr, HK Fire Service. C **Chu Man-chun**, Sr Div Offr, HK Fire Service. **Chung Hiu-pang**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. E **Crowter**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. R H **Davies**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Fong Kai-cheung**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. B D M **Hancock**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. W M **Harvey**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. A **Kwok Chi-shun**, Sr Supt (Auxiliary), Royal HK Auxiliary Police Force. **Lam Chun-tai**, Prin Fireman, HK Fire Service. **Lau Kam-yiu** Prin Fireman, HK Fire Service. **Lau Sik-on**, Assis Chf Ambulance Offr, HK Fire Service. **Law Hang-chi**, Prin Ambulanceman, HK Fire Service. **Leung Yu-kau**, Station Sgt, Royal HK Police Force. **Victor Lo Yik-kee**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Luk Kai-lau**, Station Sgt, Royal HK Police Force. **Ma Hon-ming**, Prin Fireman, HK Fire Service. D **Madoc-Jones**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Mok Ying-chuen**, Station Sgt, Royal HK Police Force.

T J **Oakes**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. M P **O'Callaghan**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. M S **Parker**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Shing Hee-luk**, Station Sgt, Royal HK Police Force. **Siu Kin-tak**, Station Sgt, Royal HK Police Force. **So Wing-cheung**, Sgt, Royal HK Police Force. **Suen Ching-hing**, Prin Fireman, HK Fire Service. **Suen Kwai-leung**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Tam Yau-tong**, Station Sgt, Royal HK Police Force. **Ting Siu-ki**, Station Sgt, Royal HK Police Force. **To Ho-kee**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. Mrs B **Tsang Chang Hawk-shu**, Sr Supt (Aux), Royal HK Auxiliary Police Force. **Tsang Pang-fei**, Sr Insp, Royal HK Police Force. I **Tse Ho-yin**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Tung Wing-cheong**, Station Officer, Royal Hong Kong Police Force. G M N **Ure**, Chief Supt (Aux), Royal HK Aux Police Force. Miss P K **Walsh**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. R A **Williamson**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Wong Doon-yee**, Sr Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Wong Tze-on**, Sr Stn Offr, HK Fire Service. **Yam Tat-wing**, Senior Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Yeung Kwong-hung**, Sr Div Off, HK Fire Service. R L **Youill**, Supt, Royal HK Police Force. **Yu Chun-ming** Prin Fireman.

COMMONWEALTH

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

OBE: Mrs Stephanie Patricia **Archibald**, for public services.
MBE: John Alpha **Josiah**, for public service.

BAHAMAS

CBE: John Barne **Farrington**, for services to the hospitality industry.

BELIZE

OBE: Sister Mary Cecilia **Esquivel**, for services to education and the community.
MBE: Wilfred **Peters**, for services to music and culture. Mrs Melba Lilla Jeane **Staine**, for services to education.

COOK ISLANDS

KBE: Apenera Pera **Short**, the Queen's Representative in the Cook Islands.

GRENADA

CBE: Judge Monica Theresa **Joseph**, for public services.
OBE: Alison Augustine **Reason**, serv to education.
MBE: A G **Clouden**, serv to sport. Mrs U **Steele**, serv to music. O **Clovey**, serv to sport. Mrs S **Joseph-Mathurra**, serv to farming and small bus. P D **Lawrence**, serv to farming.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

KB: Thomas Baha **Ritako**, pub serv.
CMG: The Hon Jameson **Sauk**, MP, pub and comm serv.
KBE: Nagora **Bogan**, pub and comm serv.
CBE: Robin William **Moaina**, pub serv.
OBE: J E **Arkosi**, serv to commerce and comm. A N **Bellid**, serv to banking. W K **Golding**, serv to Cham of Comm and Ind. Prof L **Hill**, serv to educ. Lt Col A **Pinia**, PNG Def Force. B **Salum**, serv to Loc Govt Coun. Rev T E **Tamanabae**, serv to rel and comm. G K **Zurenuoc**, pub and comm serv.

MBE: R A **Cox**, serv to Cham of Comm and Ind. Mrs M **Hayes**, serv to women and comm. T **Iamo**, serv to educ and admin. T **Kanong**, serv to gov and comm. Mrs K G **Kila**, pub serv. K K **Mamando**, serv to comm. K G **Mogia**, serv to people of Simbu and the gov. Insp M **Periwanga**, serv to RPNG Constab. L **Salot**, serv to comm. S J **Sepe**, serv to govt and RPNG Constab. S **Sarafeni**, serv to comm. K **Sesarea**, serv to politics and comm. H **Vadu**, serv to audit and comm. M **Wani**, serv to audit and comm. Military: Lt Col P N **Playeh**. Lt Col D M **Ugul**. Chief WO S **Womara**. WO J W **Aiglio**. Sgt R **Arisa**. Drum Maj J **Kethy**. WO J **Meino**.

ISO: P K **Kabon**, pub and comm serv. R **Yaid**, comm and loc gov serv.
BEM: Sgt J **Blamage**, serv to RPNG Constab. Y **Elami**, serv to Health Dept. Y M **Geoawa**, public and comm serv. Sen Sgt P **Guiness**, serv to RPNG Constab. J **Jack**, serv to country. Miss E **Komaseio**, serv to Health Dept. S M **Lari**, serv to comm. Mrs W W **Loi**, serv to educ. Miss K **Mondo**, serv to wom and comm. Sgt Maj C **Rame**, serv to RPNG Constab. B **Tala**, serv to state. R **Teratere**, serv to govt. P **Tindiwi**, serv to Health Dept. J W **Tkatchenko**, serv to orchid ind and trop gard.
Queen's Police Medal: Cdr. E **Hela**, RPNG Constab.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

KBE: H F **Quan**, serv to commerce and comm.
OBE: S **Danitofea**, serv to pub admin and geol science. Mod Rev P **Riti**, serv to Ut Church.
MBE: J **Ferafalta**, serv to commerce, espec ship ind. Mrs A **Kera**, serv to comm and tourism. J **Maetala**, serv to comm. Mrs M T **Sueinia**, serv to nursing.

St LUCIA

CBE: G **Theophilus**, pub serv.
OBE: Mrs O E **Valmont**, serv to bus comm.
MBE: M J **Scholar**, pub serv. S S **Vincent**, pub serv.
BEM: Miss S A **Saltibus**, serv to tour ind. Miss C A **Warner**, serv to arts and culture.

St VINCENT

Order of St Michael and St George, CMG: Dennis Victor **Hadley**, serv to horticulture
MBE: Samuel Montgomery **Barnwell**, serv to agriculture.

ARMED FORCES

ROYAL NAVY

Order of the Bath

KCB: Vice-Admiral John Richard **Brigstocke**.

CB: Rear Admiral Terence William **Loughran**. Rear Admiral Frederick Peter **Scourse**.

Order of the British Empire

CBE: Capt (Commdre) A J **Bannister**, RN. Commdre N D **Squire**, RFA. Col (Brig) J J **Thomson**, RM.

OBE: Cdr R J **Albery**, RN. Cdr J D **Bray**, RN. Cdr R D **Coupe**, RN. Cdr P D **Crabtree**, RN. Cdr R C **Harvey**, RN. Cdr P B **Hinchliffe**, RN. Cdr W R S **Jenkins**, RN. Cdr S J **Timms**, RN.

MBE: Lt Cdr P R **Brundle**, RN. Chge Ch MEA (ML) T **Buchanan**. PO Wren Writer D **Hampton**. WO P **Hitchcock**. PO Writer C R **Jennings**. Lt Cdr J C **Johnson**, RN. Lt Cdr R B **Jones**, RN. Lt Cdr C W **Jordan**, RN. Lt Cdr S E **Leggett**, RN. Lt Cdr A D **Malcolmson**, RN. WO A D **McDonald**. WO W J **McIntosh**, WO P A **Nicholls**. WO M **Owen**. CPO Phys Trnr V J **Parsons**. CPO (Ops) (Radar) N **Richards**. WO A W L **Sutherland**. CPO MEA (M) J H **Tait**. Lt D **Teesdale**, RN. Lt P D **Tomlin**, RN. CPO WEA A M **Wyatt**.

THE ARMY

Order of the Bath

CB: Major General Bryan Hawkins **Dutton**, late The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Order of the British Empire

KBE: Lieutenant General Christopher Brooke Quentin **Wallace**, late Royal Green Jackets.

CBE: Brig A D **Ball**, late REME. Brig J D **Moore-Bick**, OBE late RE. Col H H **Ham**, late Signals. Col P S **Purves**, late AGC (ETS). Brig A E G **Truluck**, late Signals.

OBE: Lt Col J H **Brunt**, REME, TA. Lt Col R I S **Burgess**, 9/12th L. Lt Col I M **Caws**, RE. Lt Col P **Norrington-Davies**, RRW. Lt Col A J **Hayhurst**, AAC. Lt Col J M **May**, RLC. Lt Col (Actg Col) R A M S **Melvin**, RE. Lt Col N J **Newell**, Int Corps. Lt Col R W H **Purdy**, RA. Lt Col R M J **Rollo-Walker**, LI.

MBE: Maj R J **Aquilina**, RTR. Maj S R **Armstrong**, RLC. Sgt K G **Bailey**, AGC (RMP). Maj M F **Barlow**, RLC. WO Cl 1 W J **Barr**, AGC (SPS). Sgt R D D **Brown**, RLC. Maj E A **Butler**, RGJ. Maj D T **Cartwright**, AGC (ETS). WO Cl2 M I **Collarbone**, RE. Capt J R **Crouch Bem**, RLC. WO Cl1 P A **Cutforth**, Signals. Sgt P T **Davies**, Signals. WO Cl1 C **Dorning**, APTC. Maj S C **Freeland**, RE. Maj G R J **Glenville**, RGR. Lt Col B **Greaves**, REME. WO Cl2 S L **Guest**, Int Corps. WO Cl1 O **Gurung**, QGS. WO Cl2 (Act WO Cl1) R **Hallam**, REME. Maj W G **Herlihy**, AAC. Maj B J **Hill**, AGC (ETS). Col R F **Hirst**, RE. Staff Sgt B H **Hobday**, REME. Maj I A **Horn**, APTC. Col D **Huddart**, RE. WO Cl1 M B **Hunt**, RLC. WO Cl2 R **Ingham**, Signals. Maj R J **Ladley**, R Anglian. Maj D N **Lambert**, Para. Maj A H **Leeson**, RLC, TA. Maj J G **Lorimer**, Para. Acting Capt C **Macdonald**, BW Bat ACF. Lt D R **Matthews**, LI. Maj I R **McAllister**, A and SH. Staff Sgt T **McKay**, RLC, TA. WO Cl2 B **Milne**, Para. Maj T N **Mouat**, RLC. WO Cl1 M C **Newsome**, RLC. Maj R A **Peedle**, AGC (RMP), TA. Lt Col R **Plenderleith**, RE. Lt Col D I **Richardson**, DWR. Actg Capt B A **Shanahan**, Shropshire ACF. Maj W M **Sharpe**, D and D. Col Sgt R N **Smith**, Green Howards. Maj J W **Storey**, AGC (SPS), TA. WO Cl1 G **Thompson**, AGC (SPS). Maj G H **Thorneycroft**, RE. Maj D H **Toler**, Coldm Gds. Capt S **Wallis**, RA. Maj J H **Ward**, AAC. WO Cl1 P D **Woodcock**, R Anglian.

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CB: Vice-Marshal Anthony John **Harrison**. Air Vice-Marshal Richard Henry **Kyle**. Air Vice-Marshal Robert Peter **O'Brien**.

Order of the British Empire

GBE: Air Chief Marshal Sir John **Willis**.

CBE: G Capt A J **Kearney**. Gp Capt J C O **Luke**, Air Commdre A A **Nicholson**.

OBE: W Cdr G A **Bowerman**. W Cdr N **Branagh**. W Cdr J **Cugley**. W Cdr D E **Eighteen**. W Cdr (now Gp Capt) C D **Evans**. W Cdr R R C **Parsley**. W Cdr B P **Simmonds**. W Cdr P C **Taylor**. W Cdr C E **Wick**.

MBE: Sqn Ldr R **Allen**. Flt Lt A C **Aytiffe**. Sqn Ldr P C **Banks**. Ch Tech A M **Borsden**. Sqn Ldr N G **Branston**. Sgt I D **Clarke**. WO A J **Dunphy**. Sgt (now Ch Tech) S J **Durrant**. Flt Lt J K **Frampton**. Flt Sgt G J **Heywood**. Flt Sgt K **Horner**. WO R C **Hutchinson**. MAL G A **Hynes**. Flt Lt (now Sqn Ldr) M H M **Kemsley**. Flt Sgt J D **King**. WO P H **Martin**. WO J H **May**. Sqn Ldr I R **McNee**. WO D W **Morgan**. Flt Lt Mark J **Northover**. WO A P **Rawle**. Ch Techn P **Royle**. Ch Techn D **Sanderson**. WO P **Sweeney**. Sqn Ldr L J **Trask**. Sqn Ldr R D A **Tulloch**. Sgt A **Wardley** (Rtd). WO W **White**. WO K **Wilson**. Sgt P M **Wilson**.

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ARRC: Cpl A E B **Urquhart**, QARNC.

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CVO: S J **Cox**, dir gen, Commonwealth Inst. D A C **Douglas-Home**, the Earl of Home, CBE pers servs. C Kingston **Howes**, CB Second Commissioner and Chf Exec, Crown Estate. Maj N D P **Chamberlayne-Macdonald**, OBE fmr Gentleman Usher to The Queen.

LVO: K **Aziz**, fmr chairman Prince's Trust in Hants and chmn Prince's Youth Business Trust, S Counties. J D **Bond**, fmr Keeper, Savill and Valley Grdns, Crown Estate, Windsor. Dr J H D **Briscoe**, Apothecary to Royal Household at Windsor. M T **Chamberlayne**, pers servs. T J **Ffytche**, Surgeon-Oculist to Royal Household. M C W N **Jephson**, Chief Clerk, Master of the Household's Dept, Royal Household. Mrs M the Hon **Louloudis**, assistant priv sec to the Princess Royal. J Hessel **Tiltman**, Dir of Prop Servs, Royal Household.

MVO: J D **Baxter**, fmr chairman Prince's Youth Business Trust in Cheshire (deceased: to be dated May 22, 1997). P L **Brock**, headmaster, Royal School, Great Park, Windsor. Sgt G L **Craker**, Royalty Protection Dept, Met Police. R J A **Edwards**, Gent of Chapel Royal, St James's Palace. Mrs C **Grayson**, sec, Yorks Survey, Duchy of Lancaster. Miss M E **Green**, admin, prop serv, Royal Household. W Anderson **Meston**, sec, Braemar Royal Highland Soc. S J **Sampler**, sec, Royal Travel Office. Sgt D J **Sharp**, Royalty Prot Dept, Met Police. Miss R J **Tiney**, op sched mgr (longhaul), British Airways. Miss A **Wycherley**, assis sec, Royal Warrant Holders Assoc.

ROYAL VICTORIAN MEDAL (SILVER)

Bar to RVM (Silver): R **Wilcock**, RVM Deputy Steward and Page of the Presence to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

RVM (Silver): M D **Batterbee**, carpenter, Sandringham Est. Con R **Brooks**, Royalty Prot Dept, Met Police. P **Burrell**, butler to Diana, Princess of Wales. P **Chong**, chief gilder, Master of the Household's Dept, Royal Household. L **Critchlow**, assis keeper of Valley Gardens, Crown Est, Windsor. Mrs P M **Dodge**, snr tel operator, Royal Household. P C N **Garraway**, frmr assistant bailiff, Ascot Racecourse. Able Seaman (Missile) S E **Hislop**, HM Yacht Britannia. Div Sgt Maj H S **Howarth**, The Queen's Body Guard of Yeoman of Guard. A **Keir**, sr grdnr, Pal of Holyroodhouse. J F G **Kluth**, furn mgr, Town and County Caterers. B T **Lovell**, valet to Duke of Edinburgh. PO Marine Eng Mech (Mechanical) D T **Rayner**, HM yacht Britannia. D E **Stone**, serv Royal Household. Con G K **Stuttard**, Royalty Prot Dept, Met Police. T P **Sullivan**, lister, Crown Est, Windsor. Acting Leading Seaman (Missile) D J **Wharram**, HM Yacht Britannia.

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Blair tries to limit damage in row over NHS charges

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THE Prime Minister yesterday dismissed as "overblown" the row that erupted after Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said charges would be part of a review of the NHS. But Alastair Darling, Treasury Chief Secretary, refused to rule out the idea.

Tony Blair said: "Of course we have to look at ways to get value for money, but we will not do anything which is against the principle of the NHS or our manifesto. We want to repair the NHS after years of Conservative damage, not undermine it."

Mr Darling, who is in charge of policing the budget, said the review would pinpoint how money could be spent more wisely. "The review is about long-term planning into the next Parliament. To start excluding things would mean that, before too long, you would end up reviewing nothing."

He said he understood why people would make "ludicrous" predictions: "Our opponents are quickly slipping into the ways of Opposition. But the key point is that one government, one day, had to take this fundamental look. We are not going to shrink from that task. To shrink from it would be irresponsible."

Mr Dobson, who ordered the review this week after finding that the NHS is more than £300 million in debt, insisted yesterday that its aim was to identify savings and the best use of resources. "There is no question of the Government doing anything to breach the fundamental principle of the NHS that healthcare will be available to all, according to need, free at the point of use." He said that journalists had floated the idea of charging for services: these were "simply scare stories and the Government will have no truck with them".

Explaining why he would rule nothing out of the review, Mr Dobson said: "I tried to be truthful and I said we are ruling nothing out. We are looking to every aspect so we can get the health service finances on an even keel and get through the pressures of this coming winter. We are going to look at charges, but it may be that some charges will actually be reduced or removed."

Stephen Dorrell, the Conservative former Health Secretary, said in a statement: "Labour's consideration of NHS charges is a great betrayal of the British electorate who believed that Labour were committed to the NHS."

The party's manifesto included a commitment to the "historic" NHS principle that access would be based only on need, not ability to pay, Mr Dorrell said. "Two months later they have shown this commitment to be worthless. It is no defence to talk about thinking the unthinkable."

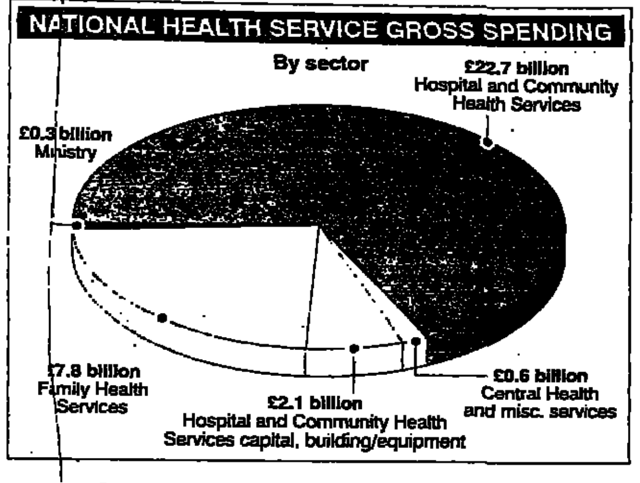
Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said: "Some of us fought the election honestly, admitting that the NHS was desperately short of money, and proposed how substantial sums of money could be raised. It is crazy now for the Labour Government to imply that higher charges may be introduced, but to say that higher public expenditure will be ruled out."

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said the policy that the NHS should be funded from taxation and free at the point of use was the fairest and most efficient way of financing the service. "To introduce more charges would be unfair and inefficient."

Philip Hunt, the NHS Confederation chief executive, said there was a financial crisis. "It seems the public want restructuring, but are reluctant to pay for it through taxation."

Leading article, page 21

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE GROSS SPENDING



Figuring out the financial sickness

By Ian Murray

THE total annual budget for the NHS is now nearly £42 billion, equivalent to £1,700 for every household in the country. All but 6 per cent of the money comes from direct taxation, as income tax or National Insurance contributions. The rest comes from prescription charges and fees to NHS dentists and opticians.

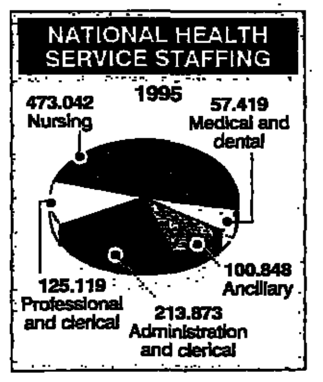
Treatments rose by more than 10 per cent between 1990 and 1996 to 11.2 million. Waiting lists have reached an all-time high at 1.1 million. The number waiting for more than a year is also rising.

Beds were cut from 335,000 to 212,000 between 1984 and 1995 yet the number of patients treated rose by a third.

With almost a million people on the payroll the NHS is one of the largest employers in the world. The wage bill comes to £76 million a day. At the end of the last financial year 69 out of the 100 health authorities and 125 of the 425 NHS trusts were in debt to a total of £301 million. Nationally expenditure is now exceeding the service's income by an estimated £1 million a day so the total amount of debt is probably by now close to £350 million.

The NHS spends £4 billion a year on drugs and £500 million on buying care from the private sector. Mr Dobson is keen to cut these figures. He has already saved £20 million by freezing the money earmarked for the latest batch of fundholding doctors. He has demanded managers make £80 million in savings on bureaucracy over the year and ordered the sale of unwanted land worth £1.2 billion.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE STAFFING



Nurses in the accident and emergency department at Northwick Park Hospital, where patients are often treated on trolleys in busy corridors

SIMON WALKER

Hospital warns Dobson of impending crisis

By Mark Henderson

NURSES treat burns and broken bones on trolleys in overcrowded corridors. Doctors cannot get state-of-the-art drugs. Elderly patients linger in bed after treatment as families and social services refuse to collect them. Operations are routinely cancelled because of a lack of beds.

Conditions at the Northwick Park Hospital in Harrow, northwest London, bear witness to the chronic underfunding in the health service which led doctors at the Northwick Park and St Mark's Hospital NHS Trust to give a warning to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, of an impending crisis in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* yesterday.

Sarah Turley, the accident and emergency manager, said that corridors full of trolleys used for her patients were symptomatic of problems which threatened to overrun both the hospital and the NHS. "We are getting more and more admissions, and we don't have enough cubicles to treat them in privacy."

Accident and emergency attendances have risen 10 per cent this year, on top of a 7 per cent increase last year; emergency admissions are up 28 per cent in 18 months. The hospital expects further increases because of the closure of the nearby Edgware General Hospital in April.

James Thomson, a consultant surgeon, said the rise in emergency admissions had forced him to cancel non-urgent operations at his colorectal clinic. "A lot of our patients have mechanical problems with their bowels, which don't need emergency treatment but are extremely unpleasant," he said.

Chris McCullogh, the hospital's clinical director for orthopaedics, said elderly patients often stayed in hospital after treatment was complete because families and social services were unwilling or unable to care for them. Mr McCullogh said that 10 per cent of his beds were usually blocked in this way.

Professor Richards

Jonathan Levi, clinical director for medicine, said the local health authority paid a flat amount to cover emergency admissions, which did not take account of the numbers treated. He added that it had also refused to pay for a new heart drug because, at £14,500 per life saved, it was too expensive.

Dr Levi said the health service needed reforms that would allow money to follow patients. "The hospitals which treat most people should get the most money," he said.

Professor Peter Richards, the medical director, said: "We cannot provide proper services if we have to find a 2 to 3 per cent saving every year. What I would really like to see is a tax increase ring-fenced for health."

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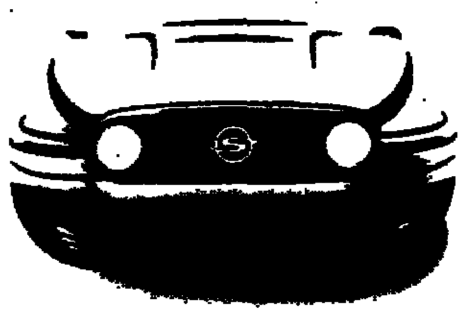

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Whitby takes fright at the spectre of a Dracula invasion

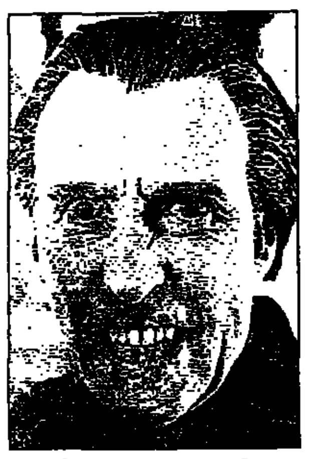
By Paul Wilkinson

FOLLOWERS of Count Dracula gathered in Whitby yesterday for a disputed centenary celebration of Bram Stoker's Victorian Gothic horror story.

While the Dracula Experience Society insists it is the anniversary of the novel it is marking, others in the North Yorkshire resort and fishing port fear that an interest in the Prince of Darkness is a short step to drugs and the occult. The town's tourist trade has benefitted from its setting as the place where the Transylvanian vampire *first set foot in* Britain, coming ashore in the shape of a great black dog from the storm-tossed wreck of his ship.

But Dorothy Clegg, a local gift shop owner and councillor, said yesterday: "Beneath the surface there is something to worry about, something sinister. I have seen their mail order lists and magazines which have been left around the town and some are almost pornographic and an invitation to Satanism."

Dracula fans from the United States and Europe have travelled to Whitby. Styling themselves as "Goths", they dress in black, wear silver jewellery, white face-powder and dark eyeliner. Mrs Clegg said: "Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was the best Victorian guidebook to Whitby ever written, but people must remember it is only a book and that it was the spirit of good and the belief in God that triumphed. I am not saying we should ban this gathering, but I feel uneasy and I'm not sure it is good for Whitby's reputation."



Christopher Lee, the familiar face of Dracula

Stoker visited Whitby to gather material for his book, which astounded Victorian readers. Three chapters refer to it, including the clifftop graveyard of St Mary's Church where the count seized his first victim, the innocent Mina.

Attempts earlier this year by the Dracula Experience Society to organise a walk up the 199 steps from the town to the churchyard were sharply rebuffed by the Rector of Whitby, the Rev Michael Aisbitt, and his curate, Graham Taylor. Mr Aisbitt has been invited to the weekend's events, which include drama, music, dance and art. As well as bands with names such as Vlad, Dust to Dust and Thirteen Candles, there are Dracula film clips and talks by cast members from the Hammer films which popularised the legend.

A highlight is a performance of Dracula's seduction *of Mina by the Northern* Ballet Theatre. The rector, who wishes people would concentrate on Whitby's links with Captain Cook, the pilgrims St Hilda and Caedmon and William Scoresby, the inventor of the crow's nest, was reluctant to comment. "I have more important things to get on with," he said.

Earlier he had criticised the legend as a negative influence on young people and the novel as mediocre: "On the surface it seems harmless fun, dressing up and enjoying a particular type of music, but underneath I think there is a very sinister and concerning link with the occult."

Phil Bestford, 30, a Whitby artist who helped organise the weekend, said: "We wanted to walk to the graveyard and sit there for some quiet reflection, but they reacted as if we were going to sacrifice children on an altar. I am 100 per cent Church of England. I'm completely against drugs and I've never sucked blood in my life.

"As a child I remember seeing the original 1920s *Nosferatu* film and I was hooked. It is not unusual to have a baddie who is an anti-hero, but who you have some feelings for. Dracula is a sad, lonely figure. Very charismatic, very charming, but also very dangerous.

"What we certainly do not do is encourage drug-taking or the occult. Our gatherings bring money into the town and add a bit of colour — well, a bit of black and white anyway."

Kevin Barrand, Whitby's chief resorts officer, did not expect trouble: "On the whole I think they will be welcomed because they bring trade into the town. Certainly I won't be walking around with a crucifix, wooden stake and garlic."

MICHAEL POWELL

Members of the Dracula society gathering in Whitby for the centenary celebrations, with St Mary's Church and the 199 steps behind

Clown carries on despite knife hit

By Mark Henderson

A CLOWN known as Joe Fool carried on with his act after being hit in the armpit by a blade from the circus's novice knife-thrower.

Robin French, 49, who has been a clown for 22 years, changed into a dark shirt to hide the blood and performed an acrobatic show for nearly 1½ hours when he was struck by the Foolhardy Folk Circus's knife-thrower, Tony "Slasher" Hickson.

Only when the show was over did he allow his colleagues to take him to hospital, where he had six stitches. The blade missed a major artery by two inches, as well as a cluster of nerves that could have left his arm paralysed had they been severed.

The accident happened ten minutes into the show, in Norwich on Wednesday, when Mr Hickson had to throw nine nine-inch blades to hit a body-shaped target surrounding Mr French. The audience gasped as the fifth knife hit Mr French just below the shoulder, but he laughed and passed it off as part of the show.

Mr French, who has trained as a Buddhist monk, said he had been hit before by knives bouncing off the target board but not by a direct hit. He said: "The blade went into my body, although fortunately it did not stick in. It did not hurt much at the time and I carried on as if nothing had happened. But five minutes later when I was sitting down I realised there was a sticky wet feeling under my arm."

Although the pain got worse, Mr French was determined to continue his act. "It is very much in the circus tradition that the show has to go on and you have to continue if you are hurt."

Cosmo Harley, the circus owner, said he had patched the clown up with a bandage at the interval but Mr French had refused to go to hospital until the show was over. "Joe is a true professional for carrying on," he said.

Mr Hickson, 27, took up knife-throwing last year and joined the circus last month. He is also a fire-eater and trapeze artist. He said: "I am a relative beginner but I throw hundreds of knives in practice every day and this is the first time I have hit someone. It is lucky for Robin that I had not sharpened my knives for a few days."

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See page 30 for details

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Ineffective preachers must strive to rediscover voice

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

PREACHING is too often ineffective, poorly prepared and mediocre. Nearly 75,000 sermons are preached each week but declining church attendance means they are irrelevant to most people, a report published today says.

Michael Quicke, principal of the Baptists' Spurgeon theological college in southeast London, says supporters of preaching are proclaiming louder than ever that it remains vital for the next millennium. "For some, the only thing wrong with contemporary preaching is the lack of thought and energy from today's preachers," he says in the June fellowship paper of the College of Preachers.

But in contrast, there was a wide and voluble range of critics who believe preaching is in severe crisis and who question the act of preaching itself. "All is far from well," he says, arguing that preaching is under pressure in turbulent times.

Dr Quicke concedes that it is unfair to blame declining church attendance — 89 per cent of the population no longer attends church — on ineffectual preaching. There was a tide of apathy among people. "Yet, because of its primary importance for communicating gospel truths and shaping communities, preaching does stand in the dock accused of ineffectiveness," he says.

Some commentators have argued that changes in modern worship, such as the growth of the charismatic movement and in pastoral counselling, have left preaching stuck in the 1960s. Others say preaching is of pagan origin and can be damaging to a congregation because of a preacher's egotism.

But Dr Quicke says preaching still has a place, as long as preachers are willing to change. "As we approach this next millennium, it is essential for preachers to stand under the Word of God, believe that God still speaks through what He has already spoken," he says. "There is more to God's words than words. It is the Holy Spirit who enables the preacher to speak with spiritual effectiveness."

His paper is published as *The Times* and the College of Preachers announce today the 30 preachers shortlisted in the 1997 *Preacher of the Year* Award. Five will go forward to a final in a "festival of preaching" at Durham Cathedral on November 12.

Ernie Rea, head of religious broadcasting at the BBC, who will be judging the final along with Joan Bakewell and a panel of eminent preachers, said: "I have heard hundreds of sermons, most of them very immemorable. There has been a decline, and that is because the preacher's expectations of what he or she is going to accomplish have declined."

The sermons of the 30 shortlisted preachers will be published in November by Cassell in *The Times Best Sermons 1998* along with last year's winning sermon by Father William Anderson of Aberdeen. The winning preacher will receive a specially commissioned sculpture, and there will be awards for runners-up.

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

SALLY SOAMES

Joan Bakewell, one of the Preacher of the Year judges

THE SHORTLIST

Rev Roy Allison (Methodist, Dartmouth); **Brian Anker** (Anglican, Cambridge); ***Gillian Belford*** (Methodist, Appleby, Cumbria); ***Rev Richard Buckley*** (Anglican, Wentworth, south Yorkshire); **Rev Eric Burton** (Congregational, Nettleham, Lincoln); ***Martin Camroux*** (United Reformed Church, Swindon); **Rev Sally Chapman** (Anglican, Willenhall, West Midlands); **Rev Andrew Clitheroe** (Anglican, Lancaster); **Dr Joyce Critchlow** (Anglican, Brandside, Derbyshire); **Rev Roger Dawson** (Anglican, Dereham, Norfolk); **Rev Richard Dormandy** (Anglican, southeast London); **Rev John Garland** (Baptist, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan); **Rev Anthony Gledhill** (Methodist, Kettering, Northants); **Gill Green** (Anglican, Newmarket); **Zena Helliwell** (Anglican, Bristol); **Fr Edmund Hill** (Roman Catholic, Cambridge); **Rev Neville Manning** (Anglican, Newhaven, East Sussex); **Dom Placid Meylink** (Roman Catholic, north London); **Geoffrey Moore** (Anglican, Scarborough); ***Rev Michael Parker*** (Anglican, Bedford); **Rev Harry Potter** (Anglican, southeast London); **Dilys Quick** (Anglican, Swansea); ***Machenry Schafer*** (Presbyterian, Belfast); **Rev Eric Seligren** (Anglican, Blandford, Dorset); **Lorna Sivyour** (Baptist, Rustington, West Sussex); **Rev Julian Templeton** (United Reformed Church, north London); **Rev Paul Walker** (Anglican, Sunderland); **Rev Claire Wilson** (Anglican, northwest London); **Rev Brenda Woods** (Methodist, Peterborough); **Thomas Woodsend** (Presbyterian, Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire).

Credo

Wedding vows celebrate the selfless love of a creative God

Brian Mountford

The marriage season is coming in and, at busy churches, clergy will have as many as three or four weddings an afternoon. Choristers will be taking bets on how late the bride will arrive; best men will be trying to think of jokes that won't upset auntie; bridesmaids will be blushing, mothers fussing, grooms jittering, photographers flattering and chauffeurs cursing the traffic. Who says that marriage is going out of fashion?

I once married a bride who couldn't get her tongue around the words of the vows. Instead of "to love and to cherish" she kept saying, "to love and to tweasure". It happened first at the rehearsal. "Look, why not think of cherries," I said. "Just say to love and to cherry, then add a little 'sh' on the end, like this: to love and to cherry . . . sh.

Next day when she arrived at the church door with her father, she said: "I've been practising, and I've got it now — to love and to cherry . . . sh."

"Marvellous," I said.

So we reach the dreaded moment, and I say "in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish", and she says, "to love and to tweasure — Oh my gawd, I've done it again."

Immediately the service became rooted in reality and she'd made a point better than many a sermon could have done. Jesus said that, where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Treasuring your partner is the key to marriage, and to any relationship. Marriage is above all else a celebration of love — the essence of Christianity and of God. So a marriage where two people genuinely believe that their vows are made to one another in the presence of God symbolises the presence of God, and maybe actually makes God present.

The major characteristic of Christian love is self-giving — the sacrifice self-exemplified in Christ's life, death and resurrection. The marriage service picks this up in the promise to be committed "for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health". This is the love which suffereth long, is not boastful or puffed up, is patient, kind and truthful — the kind capable of survival.

But there is another aspect of God emphasised in the service — God the *creator*. One of the modern prayers says of God: "You allow us to share in your work of creation." Christians believe that creation is the natural consequence of God's love, and that creativity can be the result of human love as well. In the wedding context this refers to the gift of children — "procreation" as the Prayer Book puts it. But the point is more wide-reaching than that. I have often argued that, when an artist sees beauty in ordinary things and successfully reveals them to whoever views his paintings, this is an act of love and creativity.

But in addition to having children, love in a relationship is creative in many other ways. In personal growth, for example, increasing happiness, in developing shape and purpose in life, and making a contribution to the community, not to mention the resource that can transform disappointment and tragedy into something positive and hopeful. Love is a natural defence mechanism that assists healing after the inevitable rows, rather like the clotting of blood enables wounds to heal.

St Paul was surely right to observe that finally three values remain: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of these is love.

☐ *The Rev Brian Mountford is vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford.*

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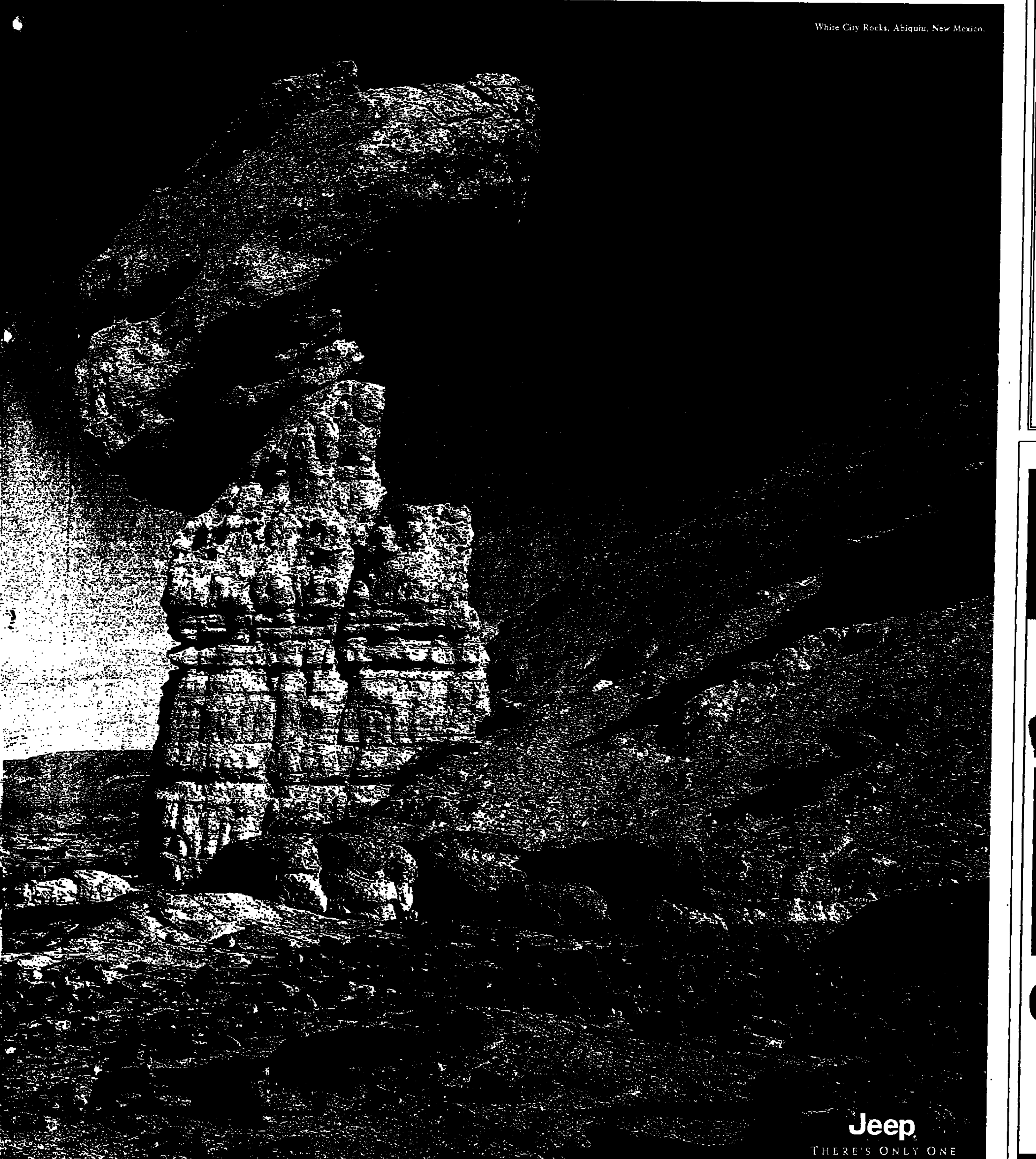

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Israel links land sale murders to Palestinian agents

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

FOUR Palestinian security agents have been charged by an Israeli court in connection with the spate of murders of Palestinian land agents suspected of dealing with Jews, the first move of its kind since the killings began last month.

According to the Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot*, four members of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service were charged earlier this week by a Jerusalem district court with the kidnapping of Farid Bashiti, 70, of east Jerusalem, the first of three land merchants so far murdered.

The decision to go ahead with legal proceedings came despite denials by Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority of any involvement in the gangland-style killings, which began after Freih Abu Medein, the Palestinian Justice Minister, issued an order that an old Jordan law decreeing capital punishment for any Arab selling property to Jews was to be revived.

In the face of widespread international condemnation and a threat by the United States to withdraw vital funding from the Palestinian Authority, Mr Arafat attempted to distance himself from the new policy. But Western intelligence sources familiar with the working of the Palestinian security services dismissed his denials.

Mr Bashiti's killing on May 9 was widely seen as a deliberate example to other Palestinians dealing in land sales with Jews. With his mouth taped, his hands tied behind his back and skull crushed by a blunt instrument, he was found dumped in the West Bank town of Ramallah, now under Palestinian self-rule.

The indictment submitted by Irit Abulafia, the Israeli attorney, claimed that in April Hussam Moeta, one of the four agents charged, ordered Nadia Dabash, the one woman in the case, also now charged, to compile information about Bashiti.

Although secrecy has surrounded the court proceedings, Ms Dabash, 33, fainted when she made her original appearance in court last month before charges were pressed. She is now accused of deliberately luring Bashiti from the Ambassador Hotel in east Jerusalem to Ramallah.

Referring to the brutal killing of Bashiti, whose body was later prevented for nearly two weeks from being buried by order of the leading Palestinian Muslim cleric who branded him as an "infidel", the Israeli Foreign Ministry said: "This murder should be viewed within the context of a recent Palestinian Council decision invoking the death penalty against anyone who sells land to Jews."

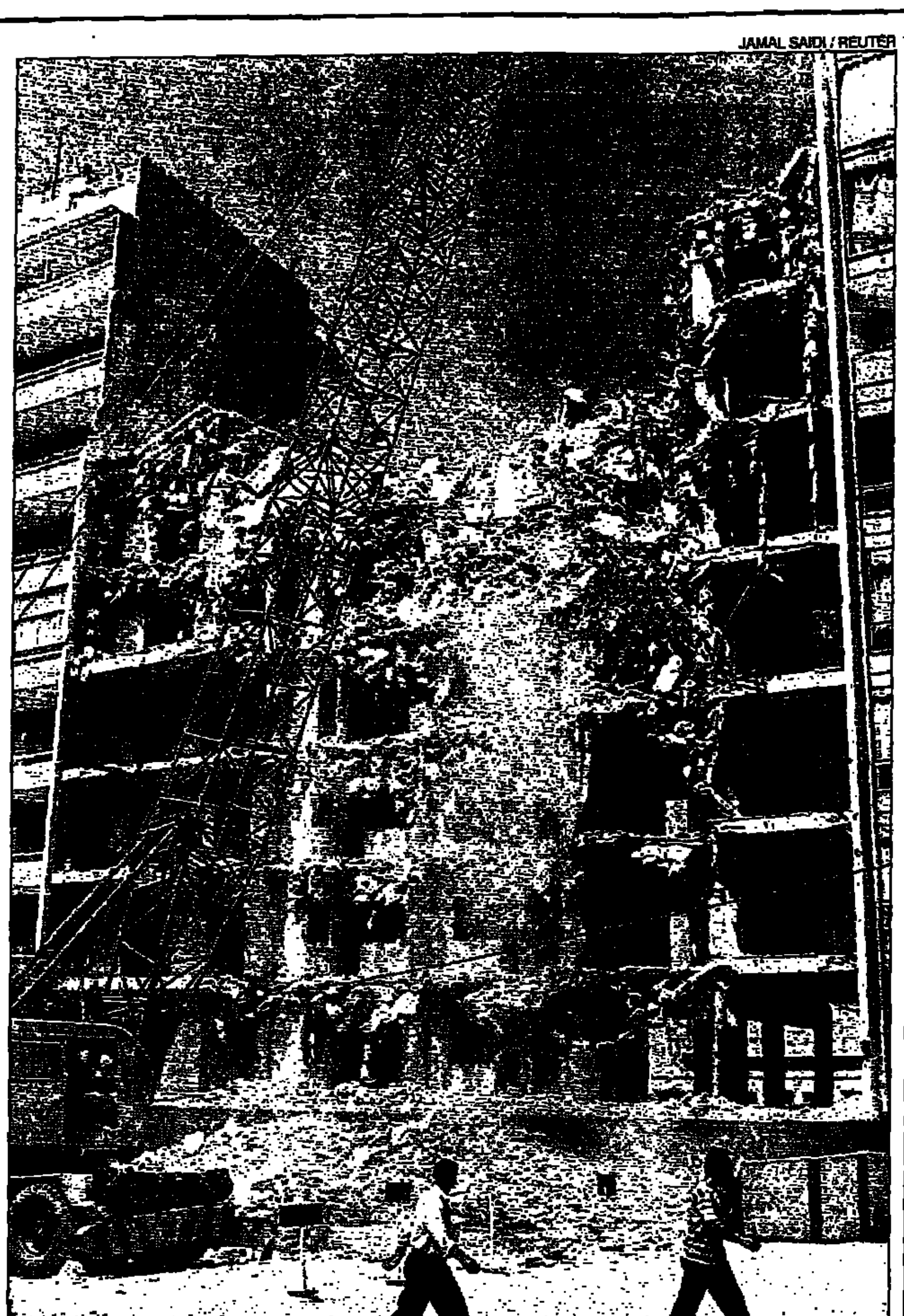
According to the charge sheet, Ms Dabash travelled with Bashiti from Jerusalem to Ramallah to meet a supposed purchaser of a piece of land he had for sale. "The real intention," the *Yediot* reported, "was to kidnap Bashiti and bring him to Ramallah."

Waiting in a Ramallah restaurant posing as a representative of the potential buyer was Abdal-Karem Jit, another of the four Palestinian agents now charged, who asked that the meeting be held at his home. The indictment said that Ms Dabash and Bashiti got into Mr Jit's car and drove straight to Palestinian security headquarters in Ramallah. A few hours after the kidnapping, the land agent's body was discovered.

☐ ***Fraud case:*** *Israel's High* Court will rule tomorrow on demands by opposition legislators that Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, be indicted for fraud and breach of trust.

US criticised on Jerusalem

Geneva: King Hussein of Jordan criticised a US House of Representatives motion seeking President *Clinton's reaffirmation of* Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital, saying it somewhat undermined the American role in Middle *East peace efforts.* Speaking to reporters here the King called on Israel to halt its "policies of settlement, land confiscation and demographic manipulation". *(Reuter)*


JAMAL SAIDI / REUTER

A demolition crane yesterday knocks down Yassir Arafat's former residence in Beirut which was wrecked by an Israeli bomb during the siege of Palestinian guerrillas in 1982. Scores of residents were killed minutes after Mr Arafat had left the building

WORLD IN BRIEF

Turkish coalition leader agrees to power swap

Ankara: Necmettin Erbakan, the Islamic Prime Minister of Turkey, last night agreed to hand over power to his secular coalition partner, but the move may not satisfy powerful generals who are opposed to the Muslim faction in the Government.

Mr Erbakan consented to leave his post to Tansu Ciller, the Deputy Prime Minister, who leads the centre-right True Path party, after she threatened to quit the 11-month-old coalition. Mrs Ciller insisted on the power swap in an effort to appease the military, but the government manoeuvre is a cosmetic change since Mr Erbakan's Islamic Welfare will keep key Cabinet positions. *(AP)*

58 die in Delhi cinema fire

Delhi: Fifty-eight people were killed by a fire at a packed cinema in the Indian capital. Tejinder Khanna, the lieutenant-governor of Delhi, said the blaze started when an electrical transformer collapsed and set fire to dozens of cars parked in the cinema's basement. Most of the dead were thought to have been sitting upstairs in the box and balcony sections, from where escape was hardest, one fireman said. Most of those in the stalls were able to get out. One witness said: "I saw women with children in their arms breaking windows and jumping out." *(Reuter)*

Swiss 'hold torture papers'

Judicial authorities in Switzerland have confirmed the existence in their country of secret bank accounts and safety deposit lockers possibly containing the records of Argentine military officers accused of torture and killing political opponents during the 1974-1982 dictatorship (Gabriella Gamini writes). Human rights groups say the deposit boxes could contain the military archives, with valuable information about what happened to more than 10,000 people who disappeared in the clandestine torture camps.

Kinshasa massacres claim

Kinshasa: More than 640 people were killed in Kinshasa late in May during the rebel takeover of the then Zairean capital, the local Association for the Defence of Human Rights said. The group said massacres took place when rebels loyal to Laurent Kabila took control of the city. The association listed communal graves where a total of 647 bodies were buried between May 19 and 28 in and around Kinshasa. Most of the victims were members of the Zairean armed forces and looters as well as innocent civilians. *(AFP)*

Second marriage for Shultz

New York: George Shultz, right, 76, the former US Secretary of State whose wife, Helena Maria, died in 1995, is to marry again (Tunku Varadarajan writes). His bride on August 15 will be Charlotte Maillard Swig, 63, the chief of protocol for San Francisco City Hall. The twice-widowed hostess, who has considerable private wealth, is known for her elegance and repartee. They met at Stanford University, where he is a fellow.

Creepy dish costs $600,000

Charlotte: A North Carolina jury awarded more than $600,000 (£353,000) to Darlene Henderson, who said she unwittingly ate half a cockroach at a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in Orangeburg, though its management said she planted it. The jury had docked her award by 10 per cent for negligence in not looking at what she was eating. *(AFP)*

America puts the sparkle back in first Star Spangled Banner

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

A TEAM of experts is launching a $15 million (£9 million) project to rescue the decaying remains of the oldest and most cherished of America's national icons, the original Star Spangled Banner that inspired its national anthem.

The vast flag which flew, in defiance of a British assault, above Fort McHenry in Baltimore in September 1814 and whose broad stripes and bright stars stirred Francis Scott Key to write his famous poem, is gradually fading to fragments and dust.

But now, with the assistance of dozens of historians, chemists and conservators, including Sheila Landi, the former textile specialist at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington is hoping to prolong the life of the 300lb, four-storey-high national treasure.

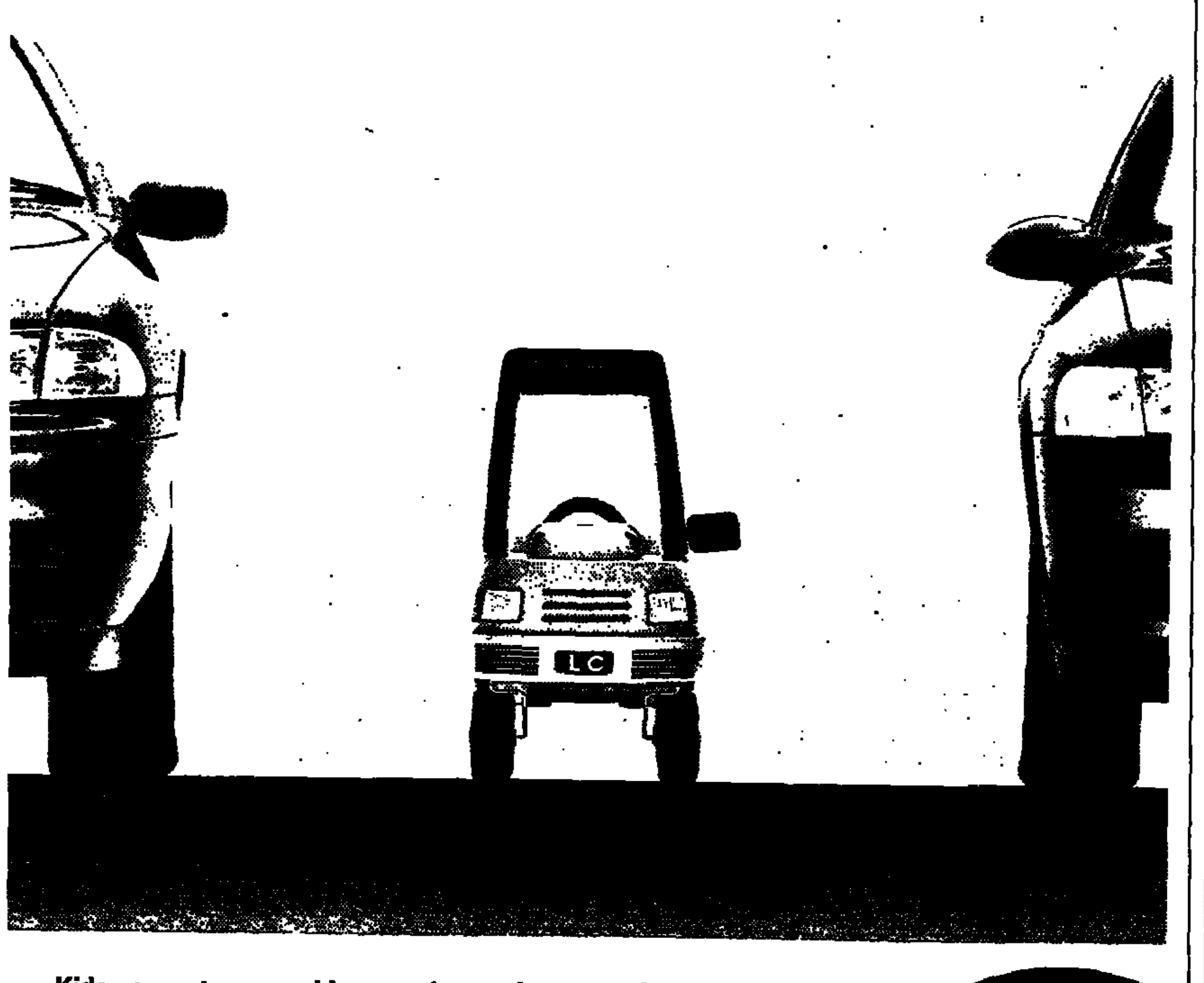
More perhaps than for many other countries, the American flag represents a sense of identity for the entire United States population. Hundreds of citizens and visitors stream past the banner every minute in the National Museum of American history in Washington.

Even as the country was preparing to celebrate its national flag day today, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to protect the Stars and Stripes from "physical desecration": the act of protest flag-burning that conservatives have long viewed as a sign of unpatriotic liberalism.

The Smithsonian team plans to study the 184-year-old flag in a specially built room and possibly place it in an environmentally controlled atmosphere under seven tonnes of glass. In the past, conservators have used such glass cases for historical documents such as the Declaration of Independence, but no one has ever produced one the size of a small building.

"It is still in the developmental stage, but we are looking at a monumental task to try to stabilise the environment around the flag." Suzanne Thomassen-Krauss, the Smithsonian's senior textile conservator, said. "But it is a project which I think will mean a lot to Americans." She added: "The flag is not only associated with our national anthem; it also represents a time when we first saw ourselves as a people."

The Star Spangled Banner, with its faded patches and still mysterious red V on one of the stripes, was stitched by Mary Pickersgill and her teenage daughter Caroline on the floor of a malthouse in Baltimore in 1813.



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Uma Thurman's is a devil of a role in the new Batman movie. The sultry actress tells how she became a creep, in Style tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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Bad week for Britain in Albania as chief election organiser storms out

FROM TOM WALKER
IN TIRANA

THE British official in charge of the international community's assistance to the Albanian elections stormed out of the country yesterday, accusing the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, from which he had just resigned, of "absolute and complete lies".

Brian Pridham is the second Briton to leave Albania in cloudy circumstances this week, hard on the heels of the British Embassy's Second Secretary, Geoffrey Briggs, who was stabbed on Monday and flown out to Italy.

Mr Pridham left less dramatically, taking the afternoon flight to Vienna, OSCE headquarters, which is assisting and monitoring the Albanian elections due at the end of the month. The organisation's office in Tirana has insisted Mr Pridham resigned "for personal reasons", but sources in the organisation confirmed yesterday that he felt he was undermined by its complex hierarchy and was concerned at the undemocratic and violent climate in which the elections are being held.

"The first one was stabbed in the front and the second in the back," reflected a diplomatic source on what has been a bad week for Britain in the Albanian capital.

"They are absolute and complete lies to say that I resigned for personal reasons. Do you think I am mad?" said an irate Mr Pridham at Tirana airport's VIP gate. "It is for deeply professional reasons." However, the organisation's spokeswoman in Vienna, Melissa Fleming, insisted: "Mr Pridham has left us for personal reasons."

As with Mr Briggs, the truth behind Mr Pridham's departure has yet to emerge, and will probably only be known after the elections, set for June 29. He is known to have written a letter to the former Austrian Chancellor, Franz Vranitsky, OSCE envoy to Albania, complaining at his treatment by the organisation.

But diplomats working closely with the organisation in Tirana were sceptical about Mr Pridham's tirade. "He had not been in agreement since the beginning," said one. "He indeed seemed to have personal problems."

Mr Pridham's letter to Herr Vranitzky apparently complained at length that he had been barred from a meeting with him. "He was not good for morale," summarised the diplomat. Mr Pridham, who Ms Fleming said had previously organised elections in Palestine, has been replaced by another Briton, Tony Welsh. He has refused to comment on the furore over his predecessor.

With or without Mr Pridham, the OSCE faces a stiff task in steering Albania down the road of multiparty democracy. Unlike in Bosnia, where the organisation is mandated by the Dayton peace accord to set up elections, in Albania it is only empowered to assist the state. Since last summer, when it accused President Berisha of tampering with parliamentary elections, the organisation has been unwelcome to the dominant Democratic Party, which wants to keep its role to a minimum.

"Getting set up has been like pulling teeth," said the diplomat. "In some places the local civil servants who are meant to be organising the elections haven't been seen for years. It's chaos."

The OSCE is hoping that the 600 international monitors it will soon bring to Albania, along with worldwide media attention, can give the election some credibility.

Italy shamed by troops' sex abuse of Somali women

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

NEW evidence emerged yesterday of widespread torture of Somali civilans by Italian soldiers during the US-led peacekeeping operation in Somalia four years ago. The weekly *Panorama* magazine published what it said were photographs of paratroops sexually abusing Somali women.

Former paratroops said they had been instructed during training for the Somali operation "not to regard the Somalis as human beings". Benedetto Bertini, 23, a former soldier who is now an unemployed pastry cook in Palermo, said: "We were told, if in doubt shoot, even if the targets are women and children." Another former paratrooper said Somali women had been raped and had subsequently given birth to "blue-eyed Italian babies". One woman allegedly killed her baby out of shame.

Beniamino Andreatta, the Italian Defence Minister, said that the inquiry into the torture allegations would be hastened and the Government would show "no leniency toward those responsible".

The three senior women ministers in the centre-left Government — Livia Turco, Anna Finocchiaro and Rosy Bindi — issued a statement describing the photographs as Italy's shame. "We ask the pardon of all Somali women for what was done," they said. The worsening scandal has led to calls for General Bruno Loi and General Carmine Fiore, the popular Italian commanders at the time, to be called to account.

The disclosures, which began a week ago, have shocked Italians and have prompted a stream of revelations from former soldiers. The disclosures have badly dented the image of Italian troops serving abroad as *brava gente*, roughly, "good guys" sensitive to the needs of local populations. The main paratroop regiment involved, the Folgore, is at present leading the multinational intervention force in Albania.

Last week *Panorama* published photographs sold to it by Michele Patruno, a former member of the Folgore, showing Somali men being tortured in the Italian camp at Johar during Operation Restore Hope in 1993. In one photograph, paratroops were seen applying electrodes to the genitals of a near-naked Somali man, said to have been caught carrying a weapon.

The Somalia intervention force was intended to end fighting between Somali warlords and to protect food convoys. It swiftly became embroiled in disarming the bandits, many of them teenagers with Kalashnikovs.

Some former soldiers said the photographs were staged and stories of torture were "bar-room anecdotes". But *Panorama* said that a former soldier it named only as "Stefano" had offered it further photographic evidence of torture after seeing last week's issue. Magazine executives said that they checked the authenticity of the new photographs. The latest pictures, reproduced in all Italian newspapers yesterday, show paratroops holding down a Somali woman at a checkpoint between Mogadishu and Balad and thrusting objects, including a rocket flare smeared with jam, between her splayed legs.

"She was screaming and struggling," Stefano said. "We tied her by the legs to an APC [armoured personnel carrier]. It wasn't really a sexual game, it was just something to do. Things like this went on at every Italian command post ... we had suddenly gone from the civilised world to the uncivilised world and we were exhilarated." Signor Bertini told the magazine that Italian troops routinely beat Somalis, "including women and old men ... there were not dozens of Somali deaths, as claimed at the time, but hundreds".

Colonel Marco Bertolini, of the Folgore regiment, said that incidents of torture were not "representative" of the Italian mission in Somalia, which had brought "medicine, help and hope". But *La Stampa* said that Italian troops had behaved badly in Mozambique in 1993, although an inquiry into the use by soldiers of under-age Mozambican girls as prostitutes had been shelved.

DUSAN VRANIC / AP

A police diver signals the all-clear yesterday after a security check in the Stahouderskade canal in Amsterdam. EU leaders meet in the city on Monday

Chirac and Kohl disagree on economy and jobs

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN POITIERS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, last night failed to reach agreement on an European Union initiative to promote economic growth and jobs when they met here in advance of Monday's summit in Amsterdam.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, said: "We are going to work at the weekend and arrive in Amsterdam with, I hope, at least an 80 per cent agreement by all those present, not just Germany."

But Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Prime Minister, said that the EU should revive an earlier agreement to launch a labour-intensive public works programme. Herr Kohl opposed any new spending moves. President Chirac said he was confident of a quick agreement. "There exists a willingness, a full agreement, to reach in the coming hours, a settlement on the stability pact."

Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, said attempts were being made to find a solution with a statement on employment based on articles 102 and 103 of the Maastricht treaty, which provide for intensified co-ordination of economic policies. The sixty-ninth Franco-German summit had brought together two seriously weakened leaders in the bleak plate-glass and concrete landscape of Futuroscope, a high-tech theme park in the central French city of Poitiers. The summit marked the first meeting between Herr Kohl and M Jospin since the French Socialist swept to power. It also represented the first serious test of the conservative Gaullist President's cohabitation with his left-wing Government.

Another difference of opinion yesterday emerged over Romania's bid to join Nato. President Chirac said that France would support Bucharest's application despite the reservations expressed by Washington.

Roger Scruton, page 20
Leading article, page 21

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Pol Pot 'kills top followers' before fleeing stronghold

By James Pringle

POL POT, the sickly Khmer Rouge leader, has had his defence chief and 11 members of the man's family murdered and has fled from his north Cambodian stronghold with a fellow leader as hostage, according to one of the country's Co-Prime Ministers.

The once all-powerful Pol Pot, who led the Khmer Rouge during its bloody Maoist subjugation of the country from 1975 to early 1979, was carried off by his men in a sling because he was too sick to move quickly, the First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, told journalists in Phnom Penh.

"Mr Pol Pot had accused Son Sen [defence chief] of being allied with Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, so on June 10, at 2am, he killed Son Sen and 11 of his family members very brutally, very cruelly, by shooting them and running over the dead with a truck," said Prince Ranariddh. He said Pol Pot took Khieu Samphan, the former United Nations representative of the Khmer Rouge, with him as a hostage. According to senior government officials, Son Sen and his wife, Yun Yath, were shot and a vehicle was driven over their nine children, crushing their heads.

Son Sen was in charge of Tuol Sleng, a secondary school turned into a massive torture chamber where an estimated 20,000 "enemies of the state" were tortured before being killed near by.

The killings resulted yesterday in fighting around the Khmer Rouge stronghold in Anlong Veng between 200 hardliners loyal to Pol Pot and nearly 2,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas believed to have defected to the Phnom Penh Government.

Prince Ranariddh did not say where Pol Pot, who is believed to be riddled with malaria, may have gone. Cambodia and Thailand said they had sealed their borders to prevent him from escaping and Thai officials vowed to help Phnom Penh to capture Pol Pot.

China announced that it would not grant him political asylum. But there were reports that "Brother Number One" of the Khmer Rouge leadership and his hated henchman, Ta Mok, a military commander known as the "Butcher", were already in Thailand, awaiting transit to another country, presumably China.

Diplomats and analysts in the region said that the likelihood of the 69-year-old leader, who has officially retired, being captured and brought to trial for genocide were remote.

"There are too many states that would have much to lose in what would be revealed at such a trial," said an analyst in Phnom Penh.

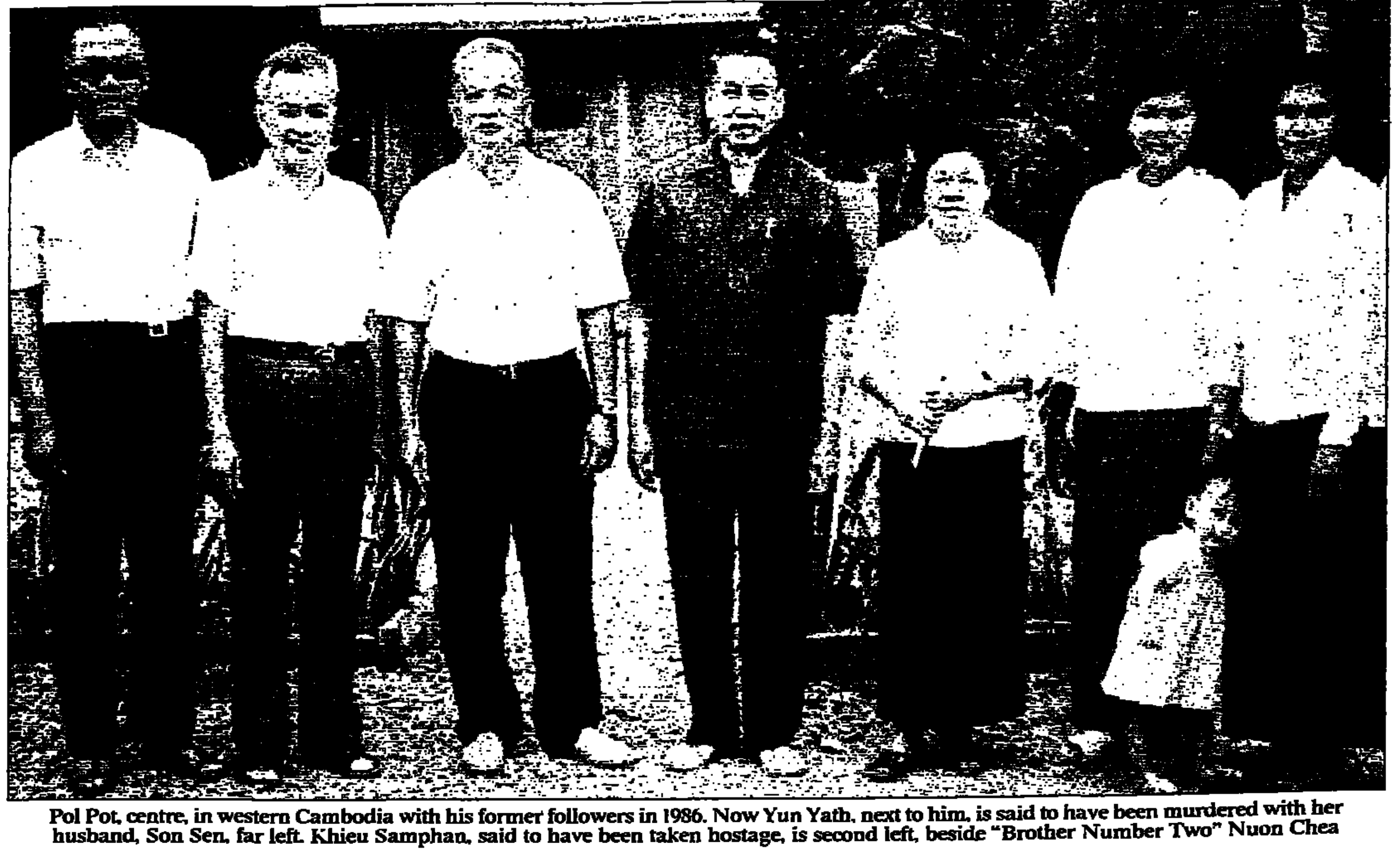
Cui Tiankai, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing, said: "Now we have no relationship with the Khmer Rouge, so there is no question of giving him or anybody else from that organisation political asylum."

In politically tense Phnom Penh, Prince Ranariddh said he had earlier dispatched a military delegation to Anlong Veng, the last Khmer Rouge bastion, to talk about an end to the long-running civil war and surrender terms with Khieu Samphan and "Brother Number Two", Nuon Chea.

Cambodia is due to join the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in late July. Member countries are known to want the Cambodian war to end before then.

Khieu Samphan, who is sometimes portrayed as a relatively "moderate" Khmer Rouge, is believed to want to enter the political mainstream and contest next year's scheduled elections, possibly in alliance with Prince Ranariddh's royalist Funcinpec party, against the former Communists of the Second Prime Minister, Hun Sen, who is emerging as Cambodia's strongman.

The fighting capability of the Khmer Rouge was very much weakened last August when Ieng Sary, who was formerly close to Pol Pot, apparently defected to the Phnom Penh Government's side with thousands of his fighters.



REUTER

Pol Pot, centre, in western Cambodia with his former followers in 1986. Now Yun Yath, next to him, is said to have been murdered with her husband, Son Sen, far left. Khieu Samphan, said to have been taken hostage, is second left, beside "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea

Crackling sways the Papua voters

By Scott McKenzie

PORK-BARRELLING is never so obvious. Elections in Papua New Guinea really do involve bribing voters with pigs.

As voters go to the polls today, men in traditional penis gourds will walk into villages to have their say in the future of a nation mired in conflict.

As usual, the same names have been thrown into the ring as potential leaders of the country — most of whom have already held the top post at least once — Sir Julius Chan, the incumbent, versus Sir Michael Somare versus Paias Wingti versus Sir Rabbi Namaliu.

So far the campaign has seen the member for Bougainville kidnapped twice, a woman offered to a candidate as a sign of goodwill and the "Sir Julius for PM" campaign helicopter stoned. Two people have died and dozens have been injured in pre-election violence that has been reduced with a nationwide ban on liquor sales.

Chan: fighting for another term

A total of 2,370 candidates are competing for 109 seats in a system where MPs will choose the Prime Minister some time after the last vote is cast in two weeks' time.

Factions abound and loyalties change and change again with no hard feelings. It is unclear whose loyalties are being pursued by the candidate who is running as "Mr Shit". He runs a natural fertiliser business.

Papua New Guinea's fifth national election since indpendence from Australia in 1975 is likely to be its most important. The country was on the brink of disaster three months ago when Sir Julius's Government signed a £22 million contract for foreign mercenaries to launch a campaign against secessionist rebels in Bouganville Island.

Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the defence chief, rebelled against the idea and took most of the army with him. In the process he pushed the country into a week of violence, which saw waves of teargas launched against pro-Singirok crowds rioting in the streets.

The upshot was that General Singirok was sacked. Sir Julius stood down pending an inquiry and the mercenaries left the country.

Since then, a semblance of normality has hung over the country while Sir Julius tries to secure another term. Local experts suggest that he has about as much chance as the pigs of surviving the election, but he has long since proved himself to be a great political battler.

Final figures will not be known at least until the end of the month and, as winning candidates emerge, the police will be on standby for the backlash that commonly accompanies election results in Papua New Guinea.

UN teams blocked by Iraqis

New York: Iraq has repeatedly thwarted United Nations arms inspections in recent days by blocking vehicles and interfering with helicopter flights, in a renewed test of the international community's will (James Bone writes).

Twice this week Rolf Ekeus, chief UN inspector, has complained to the Security Council about obstruction of UN teams seeking documents on proscribed weapons programmes.

Last week Iraqi soldiers manhandled UN staff and threatened to cut off a helicopter's fuel pump to stop them photographing a military base. The next day an Iraqi escort tried to take over a UN helicopter's controls as inspectors attempted to take a picture of an Iraqi helicopter leaving a military base.

China marks Hong Kong's return with Opium War film

From Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong

ONE of the most expensive Chinese films made, *The Opium War*, a spectacular nationalist panegyric timed to coincide with the return of Hong Kong to China, opened all over the colony yesterday.

Two days earlier, the film had its premiere before a huge audience, headed by Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive-designate. The distributor snubbed Chris Patten, the Governor. The film will open in China on July 1, the day Hong Kong is returned.

The production spans the Opium War of 1840-42 which resulted in the cession of part of Hong Kong to Britain because of China's unwillingness to allow the unfettered importation of British opium from India.

Xie Jin, 70, one of China's most venerable directors, describes the film as a "special gift for the motherland and the people ... to ensure we and our descendants forever remember the humiliation the nation once suffered".

According to the *People's Daily*, the Communist Party's official newspaper, Mr Xie mortgaged his three houses to help in financing the film; some sources say that it was underwritten on the order of President Jiang Zemin.

Mr Xie compared the war to the Holocaust and to China's Cultural Revolution. John King Fairbank, of Harvard University, the leading Western historian of 19th-century China, has described the British imposition of opium on China as "the worst international crime in history".

The cast of 50,000 includes 3,000 foreigners, and some scenes were shot in Britain. A replica of a 19th-century street in Canton was built in south China as well as a seaport and opium dens. According to the newspaper, many of the British actors thought the film was fair, saying "at any time and any place selling opium is evil and inhumane".

The film's hero is Lin Zexu, Imperial Commissioner in Canton, who burnt many chests of opium, thereby setting off British retaliation.

After a showing of the film in a Cantonese version in central Hong Kong, a retired salesman said: "This shows how the British exploited China and how they got Hong Kong. Soon we will be rid of them."

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Australia rejects handover boycott in Hong Kong

From Michael Binyon in Melbourne

AUSTRALIA is to attend the swearing-in ceremony for the Hong Kong Provisional Legislature when the territory returns to China at the end of this month, despite British and American reservations.

London and Washington do not recognise the legitimacy of the hand-picked parliament which will replace the current elected body.

"Gone are the days where we would wait to see what Britain and the US did before deciding our own agenda," said Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, in an interview with *The Times*.

Australia was as robustly committed to human rights as any Western nation, but was operating in a different, Asian, context. "We have to make our own way in an environment that is totally different." Australia had to decide what would be the most effective way of expressing its views: boycotting the ceremony would only worsen relations with Beijing. "You are not going to achieve anything by sloganeering," he said.

Australia has come under pressure, especially from America, to follow Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, in not attending the swearing-in. But he noted that she was operating in a different domestic environment, amid sharp debate in Congress over renewing favourable trade conditions for China.

Britain also approached Hong Kong and China from a different standpoint, which he respected. "We are an Asia-Pacific country. Britain is a European country. Our future, our destiny, is in the Asia-Pacific," he said.

"We share the same values on human rights as Britain. But we have to manage our policies in a different way." It would be more effective to have a formal, bilateral human rights dialogue with China, including providing help for its institutions, than co-sponsoring a resolution on human rights in the United Nations.

Mr Downer said Australia was robust in promoting its own pluralist values in the region. This might make it seem "the odd man in" in the area. But these values were increasingly seen as universal values, something increasingly accepted by Australia's neighbours.

Australia was not a "bridge" to the West, but was determined to use its position on the edge of Asia to build itself up as a centre for trade and business within Asia.

Despite a furore in the media, Australia's trade and political links with its Asian neighbours had not been damaged by the row here over anti-Asian remarks by Pauline Hanson, a maverick MP, said Mr Downer.

"In Australia, there is overwhelming support for the strategy of engagement with Asia," he said. "There is a minority — and Pauline Hanson is only a rather unintelligent manifestation of that minority — which simply take an isolationist view of Australia. Every country has people who think like this."

Mr Downer denied that Japan had threatened to drop support for Australian participation in the forthcoming Asia-Europe meeting because of the Hanson race row.

He said that Britons should not think they could escape responsibility for the other recent row in Australia, over the policy of forcible assimilation of Aboriginal children. "This was just as much a policy of Britain as Australia. We were, in those days, still very much a product of our British origins."

Japanese to attend Chinese ceremony

By Robert Whymant and Our Foreign Staff

YUKIHIKO IKEDA, the Japanese Foreign Minister, will attend the inauguration of Hong Kong's unelected legislature on July 1 despite a boycott by Britain and America, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, said yesterday. He added that Mr Ikeda would also attend the ceremonies marking the colony's handover to China.

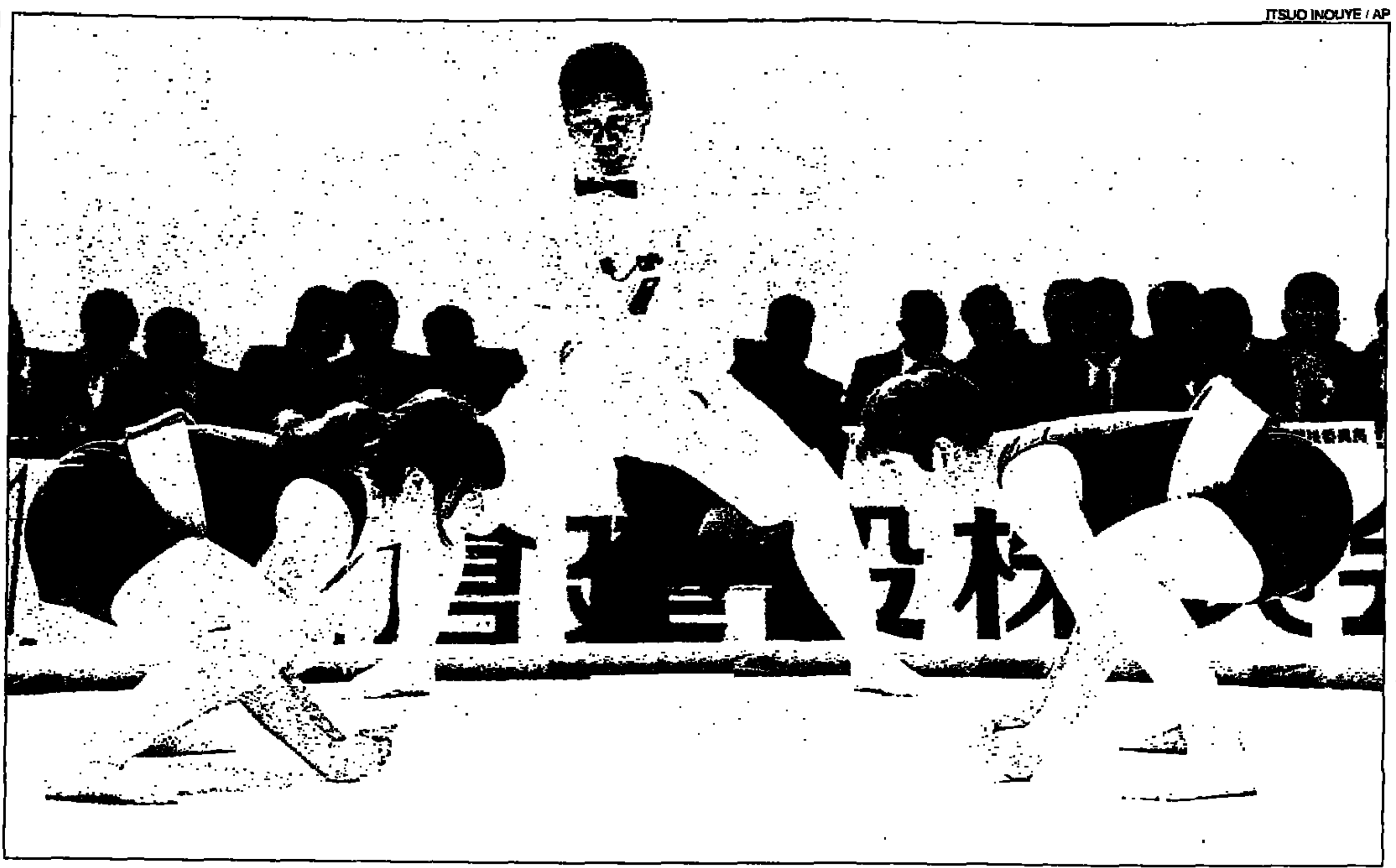
The New Zealand Government announced yesterday that it would not boycott the inauguration. Don McKinnon, the Foreign Minister, said that Wellington had already made known its opposition to the dissolution of the Legislative Council and saw no point in "carrying on a higher level of antagonism".

Yesterday, Mr Hashimoto said: "If [Mr Ikeda] disappears when the clock strikes midnight, it would give offence. It is the flow of the thing." He shrugged off the decision by Tony Blair and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, to boycott the swearing-in of the legislature. "Other countries are other countries, but Japan is Japan."

Senior Foreign Ministry officials were less nonchalant about upsetting America and Britain, but said that Japan's "special position" prevented it from supporting the boycott. "For the US and Britain, China is at the other end of the world. But we live in China's shadow," a senior official said.

Japan, which has consistently refused to criticise human rights abuses in China, has remained silent on Beijing's moves to roll back democratic reforms and restrict civil liberties in Hong Kong. Preserving and expanding the robust economic relationship between the two countries is the priority of Japanese leaders.

☐ Anti-protest laws: New laws restricting demonstrations and imposing controls on political opposition are expected to be passed today by the China-appointed legislature for Hong Kong. *(AFP)*



ITSUO INOUYE / AP

Azumi Okada, right, confronts Eriko Kawai at the start of this year's championships as sumo women invade the all-male bastion in Japan

Sumo women find male rites heavy going

Robert Whymant in Tokyo reports on the female challenge to male chauvinism dominating the ancient rituals of a national sport

WHEN Japan's national sport of sumo was first opened up to women, Rie Tsuihiji, 19, was given a solemn warning at the start of training. On no account was she to set foot in the hallowed *dohyo* (clay ring) used by male wrestlers. That would be to invite the wrath of the gods. Instead, new-style rings made of synthetic matting would be provided for sumo's female pioneers.

"I found it strange at first that women could not even enter the *dohyo*," says Ms Tsuihiji, Japan's first female sumo champion. "But we have to accept that traditional sumo is a divine sport of men."

Many Japanese chuckle at the idea of women wanting to take up a form of wrestling steeped in ritual, dating back 1,300 years, where fat men joust like bloated hippos.

In a sumo bout, two contestants charge each other and try to force the opponent to the ground or out of the central part of the ring. Agility and balance are needed, but a pair of powerful thighs and a bulging belly — to ensure a low centre of gravity — are absolute requisites. In short, the prizes in sumo go to the obese and gluttonous. People with a weight problem are, for once, at an advantage.

But at a mere 298lb, Ms Tsuihiji is going to appear puny alongside male titans, even though she is the heaviest of the 70-odd registered female fighters. Take the two most respected and highly paid stars in the nation's most popular spectator sport. The biggest is 608lb Konishiki; Akebono, the reigning champion, weighs in at 491lb.

Few women like to flaunt their fat, which may explain why organisers of women's amateur sumo, called New Sumo, have not been overwhelmed with applicants since the launch last year. Most came into the game from judo: Ms Tsuihiji belongs to the Takushoku University Judo Club.

Partly because of weight, but also because of special rules, the women's bouts seem altogether tamer than the clashes between the grunting, heaving male giants. The rules of New Sumo ban slapping, head charges and blows to the chest as too unlady-like. But when the first All-Japan New Sumo Tournament was held in January, spectators were heartened to see the old rituals preceding a bout — squatting, stamping, tossing salt — were not neglected by the female newcomers.

If Japan remains a bastion of male chauvinism, paying lip-service to the idea of equal opportunity, then the sumo establishment is the stodgiest of its various male preserves. For years the Japan Sumo Association, the powerful governing body of the professional sport, has fought to prevent the slightest contamination by women.

The last serious attempt to challenge the taboo came in 1990. Mayumi Moriyama, the Chief Cabinet Secretary at the time, announced a plan to climb into the ring to present the Prime Minister's trophy to the new champion. She said she felt compelled to challenge the "no women" tradition.

This provoked outrage. "A woman will defile the sacred *dohyo*," spluttered the head of the Japan Sumo Association. Ancient rites dictate that before every tournament the ring must be consecrated and the gods invoked to spare the wrestlers from injury. To allow a woman into the ring would upset the sport's guardian deities and cause a calamity.

Ms Moriyama suggested that such mumbo-jumbo owes more to male chauvinism than respect for the gods. But in the end she backed down, judging that annoying sumo traditionalists might do more harm than good to her political career.

It has to be said that the women's competition was not inaugurated by idealists bent on advancing the frontiers of sexual equality. The decision to allow women into the sport — but not, of course, the *dohyo* — is tied up with a specific goal: to elevate amateur sumo to an Olympic event or an exhibition sport.

"Our aim is to make sumo part of the Olympics in 2008," says Tomoko Fukushima, of the New Sumo Federation, the women's wing of Japan's amateur sumo federation. "We started work on this seven years ago. But just developing a *mawamashi* (wrestler's loincloth) for women has taken us five years."

Some male spectators at the first tournament said they found little glamour in watching overweight women push and shove without the sheer animal ferocity that their male counterparts bring to the sport. Hisashi Ikeda, 52, says: "Women's sumo is the ultimate denial of femininity. I just cannot imagine women will want to fatten themselves up like male wrestlers to improve their power."

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Russian cynics suspect nepotism but shares soar after Yeltsin's son-in-law acquires top air job

Eyebrows rise as Aeroflot gains a relative high flyer

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON

WHEN Valeri Okulov was recently appointed head of Aeroflot, the appointment instantly raised eyebrows in the aviation world, where cynics dismissed the move as a clear act of nepotism.

It is not that the 45-year-old former navigator is not experienced in the ways of Russia's state-controlled airlines. He has spent his entire career at Aeroflot, including its Soviet heyday when it was the world's largest airline.

But as the husband of President Yeltsin's eldest daughter, Lena, and the father of two presidential granddaughters, there was a strong sense that family connections rather than his managerial skills accounted for his sudden rise to the top.

Certainly, Mr Yeltsin seems to have a soft spot for his son-in-law. Although neither likes to speak publicly about the extended influence of the Yeltsin clan, the Russian leader has made little secret of his admiration for "Valera", who in some ways has fulfilled the role of the son he never had.

"He comes from a family with traditions, with some very fine manners, and these best qualities were passed on to Valera," Mr Yeltsin wrote in his book *The View from the Kremlin*. "He is direct, independent and strong; a real man of the house."

Mr Okulov, who has spent most of his career flying and training on all of Aeroflot's main civilian aircraft, had his first big break last August, when he was plucked from relative obscurity and promoted to deputy director. Observers noted that the move occurred just after the Russian leader was successful in his re-election bid and at about the same time that Tatyana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's youngest daughter, was formally appointed to an official post in the Kremlin as a presidential aide.

Despite initial scepticism, Mr Okulov appears to have made huge strides in turning the company around since his promotion to management and his confirmation as Aeroflot's general director last month. Thiugh it has a notorious reputation for poor safety and bad service, share prices in the airline have leapt more than 250 per cent on the Moscow stock market in the past six months, from around £20 to £70.

The company now has plans to replace its ageing fleet of jets with Boeings and the latest generation of Russian airliners.

Abroad, Aeroflot still has an image problem to overcome, although it has recently signed a deal with one of Russia's leading advertising agencies to help to bury its notoriety.

In a recent interview, Mr Okulov said that Aeroflot's main attraction was still its low prices — and to prove it, the company is running a month-long promotional campaign this summer, when all Aeroflot flights will cost £125.

Nevertheless, Mr Okulov will have to tread carefully. In Soviet times, Leonid Brezhnev's son-in-law, who was promoted to a senior job in the Ministry of Foreign Trade, wound up in jail on corruption charges after the Soviet leader died.

Mr Okulov will have to hope that his accident-free safety record in the air will be matched in his new job on the ground.

Valeri Okulov: Yeltsin admires son-in-law's "qualities and fine manners"

Night shift laid off for summer

NO ONE could accuse the Moscow municipal authorities of not caring about the plight of the city's less fortunate. In the early hours one day, scores of "night butterflies", as prostitutes are known in Russian, were rounded up by the police for what they thought was a routine bust. But instead of being arrested, the girls were taken to a lecture hall and ordered by a senior city official to take a long summer break.

In the finest of Soviet traditions, the authorities want every blemish to be removed from Moscow during celebrations marking the city's 850th anniversary. After that, the girls are free to resume street walking in the autumn.

Teenager tangling with heir problems

WHILE most teenagers will spend this month fretting about exams and planning their summer holidays, one young Russian student will have an additional worry to the usual list of problems.

Grand Duke Georgi Romanov, 16, heir to the Russian throne, should discover in the coming weeks whether he will become the next Tsar or remain a humble student at the British school in Madrid, where his family lives.

Under Russian tradition, the next in line to the throne reaches the age of majority at 16, when he can be officially crowned. But a key part of the preparation involves taking an oath of loyalty to Russia and the Orthodox Church at the cathedral of Kostroma, a city north of Moscow where Romanov monarchs have made the pledge since 1613.

Although in the past few months there has been a public debate about the merits of restoring the Russian monarchy, many still have misgivings. The Communist-run administration of Kostroma has banned the ceremony, the Church is taking a neutral position, and Boris Nemtsov, the hot shot new Deputy Prime Minister, seems to have lost his initial enthusiasm for the monarchist venture.

Privately, Kremlin officials admit that, with President Yeltsin looking and feeling so energetic, there is only room for one Tsar in Russia for the time being.

Iran unveils the two worlds of women

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN TEHRAN

Islamic fundamentalism still casts a shadow as girls with bags bearing prints of rock musicians shop in Tehran

THERE are two parallel universes in Iran. In the first, all women are covered and alcohol is banned. The atmosphere is sombre, the sexes are segregated and people do not laugh too much in public.

In the second, there is gaiety and a sense of relief. Some of the modern women of Iran have stripped down to miniskirts and short-sleeved tops with plunging necklines. They are the daughters of the women whom the leader of the Islamic Revolution, the late Ayatollah Khomeini, once said were "corrupted by the Shah's regime".

The ayatollah would be horrified if he could see some of the women of today carry on the traditions of their secular mothers. Behind closed doors, some women drink smuggled beer, whisky and liqueurs. They also dance to Western music with men who are not necessarily their husbands.

Muslim clerics promote only the first universe, which is the public face of Iran. Second is the private world, which Westerners only learn about through discreet friendships. The two worlds used to coexist relatively openly, but not always harmoniously. The tensions between them helped to produce the Islamic revolution of 1979, when people with Westernised styles were forced out of public life.

But liberal attitudes have continued and, for some of the affluent secular women in the northern suburbs of Tehran, this is the only way to cope with the repressive rules for public behaviour in the Islamic republic.

"Having fun? We can only do that when no one is looking," said one woman, a 26-year-old engineer. Although critical of the system, she was quick to say she is proudly Iranian and would not live anywhere else. Speaking in English, she explained she had the opportunity to escape but decided to return to her homeland. She has travelled for months in Canada and the United States.

The richness of her culture drove her home again. She is a devotee of Persian poetry and Iranian films which have undergone a renaissance since the Islamic revolution. Directors have not been able to show physical intimacy, perhaps prompting them to explore deeper and more mysterious aspects of human relationships.

Iran is a place where moral policing has been broadened to include even a woman's smile or glance towards a man. Police have stopped women from smiling at men on the ground that to do so might "amuse satanic lust", as the *Iran News* reported.

The fundamentalist nature of the Islamic revolution has not overturned centuries of practice in the Shia faith. One of the most interesting is the concept of temporary unions. In Iran, sex before marriage is illegal. But the outgoing President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, has spoken publicly of the sexual urges of youth and encouraged young men who could not afford permanent marriages to enter into temporary marriages for sexual gratification.

While his sermon in 1990 caused a public storm, many believed he was simply restating the long established Shia principle of temporary marriage — a union which is not regarded as permanent or legal but is not adulterous.

Some Muslim religious authorities say this was tolerated by the Prophet Muhammad, and it has the advantage of allowing the children of such unions to be considered legitimate.

Sexual urges have not been banished by the Islamic revolution. Prostitution has flourished and prominent businessmen keep mistresses in smart apartments.

Hafiz, one of the most loved of the Persian poets, saw pleasure and religion as the most important incentives to human action. Even in the grip of fundamentalist Islam, the people still follow the example of Hafiz more than any ayatollah.

This was clearly shown in the landslide victory of the moderate Muslim cleric, President-elect Mohammad Khatami. He is now charged with the difficult task of finding a balance between the tendency of Iranians towards both hedonism and religion.

Japan defeated in ploy to weaken whaling curbs

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE first important encounters of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting in Harare were fought yesterday, with Japan being beaten roundly in a tactical manoeuvre in its battle to resume whaling.

But the Japanese, with the backing of the world's leading fishing nations, quashed a United States proposal to set up a committee that was expected to lead to the first regulation of international sea fisheries by Cites within three years.

In both debates, delegates resorted to the secret ballot, a provision used only once before in Cites meetings, at the previous conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1994. The use of the secret vote is a sign of the increasing intensity of clashes between lobby groups at the world's largest international wildlife forum.

Delegates voted 51 to 27 to defeat a proposal by Japan that the long-established formal undertaking by Cites to follow the policies of the International Whaling Commission should be abandoned to allow Cites to make its own judgements and policies on whaling. Cites endorses the whaling commission's 11-year-old moratorium on whaling. The "delinking" resolution has been criticised widely as a tactic to weaken whale conservation because Cites has little expertise on whaling and relies on the commission.

Next week the conference is to decide on proposals from Japan and Norway for three species of whale in different parts of the world's oceans to be removed from Cites Appendix I for "critically endangered species".

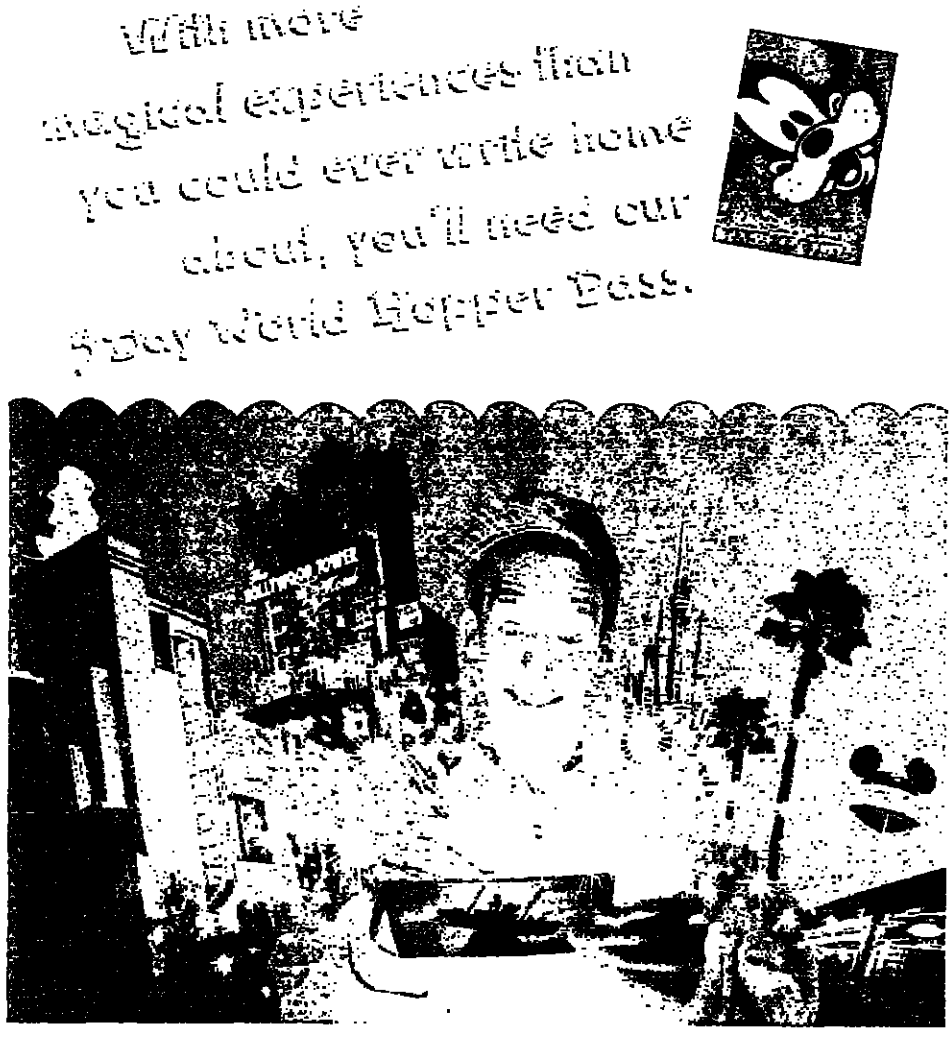
"If that [the separation of Cites from the whaling commission] had gone ahead, it would have opened the way for the proposals on whaling next week," James Martin-Jones, head of conservation policy for the World Wide Fund for Nature, said.

Later, however, commercial fishing lobby groups easily collected support to thwart an attempt to set up a marine fisheries working group that would report in detail on the effect of commercial fishing on world fish populations.

The group would have been mandated to recommend listings that would have restricted or banned trade in species of fish regarded as threatened.

Cites now lists only hard coral, giant clams and Queen conches in its appendices, and provides no protection for vertebrates. International wildlife groups say there is little information on the state of marine fish populations, but that there is no doubt that many are near extinction.

The US proposal came nowhere near the two thirds majority needed for it to be passed: it was beaten by 50 votes to 49. Japan's opposition was strongly supported by Latin American and African countries.



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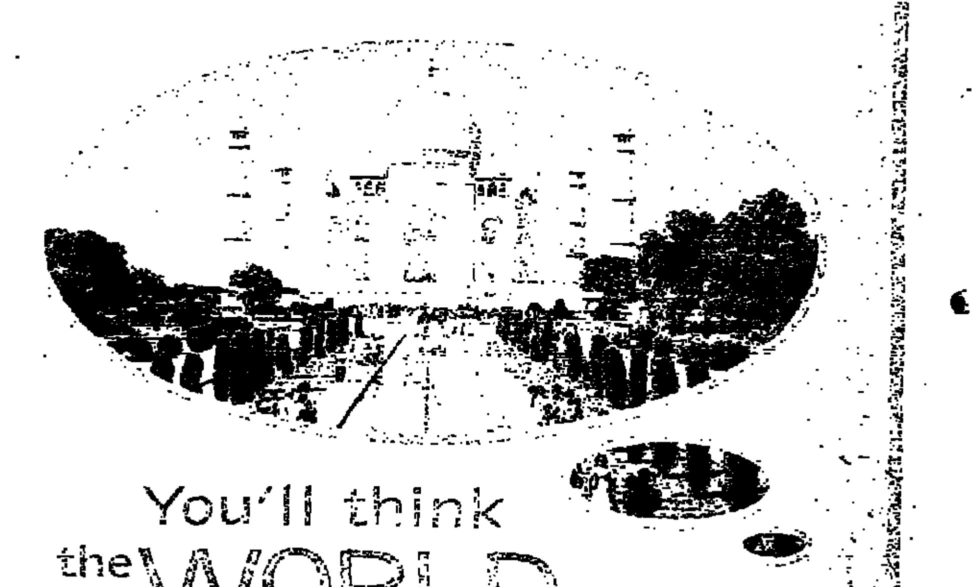

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[illegible]

■ OPINION

A genius for two years, a failure for 30 . . . but it's time to celebrate Samuel Taylor Coleridge

■ THEATRE

Little's well at a vulgar outdoor staging of *All's Well That Ends Well* in Regent's Park

THE TIMES ARTS

■ WHAT'S ON

A belated Britten premiere and all the other top weekend events are listed today in The Directory

■ ON MONDAY

Reviews of Jon Bon Jovi and an operatic double-bill from Britain's brightest young composer

Let's hear it for the grey-beard loon

If these sentences don't sing out their message loud and clear — if nebulous nouns chafe against gawky adjectives, and the syntax clumsy seems somewhat — then I apologise. The truth is that I have squandered the hours when I should have been head down, teeth gritted, slaving over a hot keyboard ... by reading poetry. Not poetry of the stern modernist variety, either. No, my crime is worse. I have regressed to the Romantics. Specifically, to Samuel Taylor Coleridge. There, I admit it. I'm a whimpering, simpering adolescent again.

When I should have been deep in analysis of the latest Byzantine twists in Arts Council policy, I was immersed in *Christabel*. (And what a kinky bird she was, fellers.) When I should have been vigorously scouring *Variety* for the mega-buck deals of Spielberg and Ovitz, I was lapping up *Frost at Midnight* ("with all the numberless goings-on of life inaudible as dreams," as my new friend Samuel himself says). When I should have been pondering the implications of changes in lottery regulations, I was hitching a spiritual ride on the road to Xanadu, if not actually potholing down those caverns measureless to man.

Most of all, however, I was gripped again by the terrifying narrative of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. I last read it through from start to finish 25 years ago, almost to the day, at around 3am on the morning of my A-level Eng Lit poetry paper — and a damned desperate, lonely read that was, with my brain clutching at quotable lines like a drowning puppy clawing at a slimy rock. My heart goes out to the thousands of 18-year-olds going through exactly that right now. Does *anybody* live through A-level English and still love the set works afterwards?

This time I read the *Mariner* for pleasure, but instead I found that revisiting the grey-beard loon's briny journey to hell and back shook me up so much that I stared thoughtfully at a piece of toast and Marmite for more than 20 minutes. More wasted time!

And guess what? Now that the pressure is off, and I don't *need* to memorise it, I find my mind is clogged up with 625 lines of utterly unusable poetry, when what I really need is a handful of pithy journalistic clichés to see me safely through to the weekend. Still, as the poet said, a sadder and a wiser man I'll rise the morrow morn.

Why did I blow the dust off Coleridge? Because this is a special year. The *Mariner* was conceived — jointly by Coleridge and Wordsworth while tramping the Quantocks — 200 years ago, on November 20, 1797. And if poetry still counts for anything in this impatient, unreflective, mega-sensationalist culture of ours, Britain should surely be making big plans to celebrate this of all poetic anniversaries.

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

I am not saying that the *Mariner* is the greatest poem in the language, or even the greatest sea poem. Arnold's magnificently pessimistic *Dover Beach*, Tennyson's spectacularly scary *The Kraken* and Hardy's glum but masterly *Convergence of the Twain* pack just as much profundity into a tenth of the space, which probably makes them technically superior. But I do think that the *Mariner* has something (I guess it's called humanity) that touches everybody: young and old, mystic and cynic, saint and sinner.

Its rhymes, metre and images are beguilingly "easy" to understand; yet its symbolic potential is limited only by the reader's own imagination. Search the textbooks and you are told that it's "all about" Christianity, the Industrial Revolution, mother-love, mother-hate, the perils of disturbing Nature (or "ecological disaster" as we would burble today), sexual obsession, opium abuse, writer's block ... you name it, and critics have discovered it in the *Mariner*. Yet, if you want, it is just a compulsively readable thriller-chiller.

Besides which, Coleridge deserves our reverence. He is the patron saint of failures — and we all fail, one way or another, sooner or later. Morton Paley's new study, *Coleridge's Later Poetry*, is a gallant attempt to argue that the last three decades of Coleridge's life were not totally bereft of decent poems. Nevertheless, the tragic fact remains that Coleridge wrote his best stuff in a miraculous two-year burst from 1797. What's more, he seems to have possessed a spooky foreknowledge that this would be so. That is why such poems as *Kubla Khan* are presented as fragments snatched from oblivion. "The Poet is dead in me," he wrote in 1801, 33 years before he actually died.

After that, well, the drugs, the sex, the marriage break-up, the rock'n'roll, the metaphysical discourses — they all took their toll. But most of all, Wordsworth took his toll. Coleridge simply withered against the competition. He lost his nerve. He thought that the *Mariner* and *Kubla Khan* didn't cut the mustard when set against *The Prelude*. What an idiot. What a pity. What a waste.

At least let's give him and his grey-beard loon a rousing cheer this year. Already one admirable institution has shown the way, announcing a *Mariner* exhibition for July and August. Congratulations to ... the Wordsworth Museum in Grasmere. Coleridge would have loved the irony.

MARILYN KINGWILL

Michael Elwyn (Lafew), Jonathan Elsom (the king) and a health service of nurses tackle Shakespeare in Regent's Park

Common as murk

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale sees vulgarity miss the point at an Open Air *All's Well That Ends Well*

Not so long ago the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park would have followed its opening production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with an *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night* or *Taming of the Shrew*. So *All's Well That Ends Well*, which has never been among Shakespeare's more popular plays, is a brave choice. You might say the same of the hiring of the woman who directs it. Helena Kaut-Howson recently and bizarrely transformed *King Lear* into a senile old lady's dying fantasies or memories of clashes with her troublesome brood.

But braver does not necessarily mean better, and Kaut-Howson's *All's Well*, although hardly as reductionist an effort as her *Lear*, quite fails to explain why the play has fascinated critics of the calibre of Coleridge and Shaw. Bertram, who cheats, fibs and defies the French king's command to love the girl who has cured his embarrassing fistula, may not be everyone's idea of a hero. Nor is Helena, who is as adept with bed-tricks as with alternative medicine, your conventional heroine.

Yet, for all its silliness, their story should leave you feeling the truth of what a lordling suggests: that people are interestingly uncategorisable, consisting as they do "of a mingled yarn, good and ill together".

But Kaut-Howson seems more concerned to embrace the silliness than explore the characters or the ideas of honour and dishonour they embody. This is a modern-dress production in which the king is accompanied into his bath by a yellow plastic duck, proclaims his arrival with a blast of patriotic music on his car-horn, celebrates his recovery by bopping on the dance-floor, and runs a country inexplicably packed with paparazzi, video operators and bunny girls in fluffy black. No wonder Jonathan Elsom, who plays the part, lost some of his lines on opening night. It must have been his unconscious protest against having so vulgar a France foisted on him.

The vulgarity extends to the Countess of Roussillion, Bertram's warm, wise mother and, as Shaw acknowledged, a woman of "sovereign charm". Surely she should not be a genial but coarse-grained old bat who dresses in fake zebra or gaudy red.

Frances Cuka, who plays the role, seems comfier as the widow whose daughter Bertram meets and woos in Italy. But that is because she has transformed a respectable Florentine into a slatternly madame with a Mrs Mop scarf, a London accent, a fag drooping from her mouth and a child who, so far from being the innocent Shakespeare specified, flashes her tummy and her boobs from inside scarlet PVC.

Nigel Planer has some success with Bertram's false friend, Parolles, although a bit more swank and a bit less camp, jokey mugging would make his eventual unmasking by his army comrades funnier. But Michael Higgs, a mildly callow, mildly arrogant Bertram, and Isabel Pollen, all decency and bony angst as Helena, deserve a production that demands more of them.

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Tue 17 June 7.30pm APOLLO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA *Poems on the Underground.* David Chernaik conductor, Lorna Anderson soprano, Julian Jacobson and Caroline Palmer pianos, Gerard Benson and Cicely Herbert readers. Works by Ravel, Canteloube, Debussy, Saint-Saëns £12, £8, £5 (concs £5)

Fri 20 June 7.30pm ATALANTA Handel: MIDSUMMER OPERA, Avison Ensemble, Midsummer Baroque Dancers. David Roblou director, Patricia Rozario *Atalanta*, Sandra Ford *Meleagro*, Jenny Miller *Irene*, David Skewes *Aminta*, Colin Campbell *Mercurio/Nicandro* £16, £12, £9, £6

Sat 21 June 7.30pm WEST LONDON SINFONIA Philip Hesketh conductor, Leo Di Bono piano Prokofiev Symphony No.1 Classical Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1 Shostakovich Symphony No.1 £9, £7, £6 (concs £6)

WIGMORE HALL
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Nicholas Daniel oboe
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Why the true Europhile is a Eurosceptic

The EU is undermining the English common law, says **Roger Scruton**

The issue of Europe, which tore the Conservative Party in two, will not go away simply because the Tories are out of office. For it is deeper than politics, and concerns the whole past and future of our country.

The habit has arisen of dividing people into "Europhiles" and "Eurosceptics", and of denigrating the sceptics as "Little Englanders". The thought seems not to have occurred to those who take charge of our political education that scepticism towards the institutions of the European Union might stem from a love of Europe and a fear of the nationalist enthusiasms which are constantly threatening to destroy its culture. It is especially galling to be told this now, when the French have just voted in droves for their National Front and German youths are once again taking to the streets in search of the "enemy within". Or are we to conduct this debate as though there were no such thing as history, and no knowledge whatsoever to be gained from studying it?

Most Eurosceptics are also defenders of the United Kingdom, which grants to the English no Parliament, no sovereign, no army and no assets of their own, but obliges them to share all these things with the Scots, the Welsh and a troublesome segment of the Irish. Conservatives remain committed to the Union, since they regard it as a knot which was tied by history.

The process of union with Scotland began in 1603, when King James I of England and VI of Scotland succeeded to the English throne. It was completed only a century later, with the Act of Union. The Union remains contentious, but it endured. And it endured because it was no one's decision, because it emerged slowly, as the by-product of more immediate matters, and because it was a natural expression of the geographical, linguistic and religious contiguity of the English and Scottish peoples.

The European Union, by contrast, is urged on us as a result of political decisions. It proceeds according to a timetable, and hastens forward with an urgency that is totally inexplicable to the sceptical observer, but which has much to do with Chancellor Kohl's prospects of holding office. In the light of this, we ought to ask ourselves whether the European Union could be as stable and as durable as the Union of England with Scotland.

We should try to ignore the wars and persecutions, the attempted suicide of 1914, the shameless destruction wrought by Hitler and the followers of Marx. For although these are part of history too, they show the nations of Europe in the poor light that falls on them whenever they succumb to either nationalist or internationalist delusions. Europe is above all a civilisation. It includes the music of Germany which has conveyed Bach's joyful faith, Schubert's tender grieving and Beethoven's defiant solitude into the minds of every musical European. It includes the language and literature of France and that great experience of Paris, its *splendeurs et misères* — the experience of a mystical identity between the city and the human soul, recorded so powerfully by Baudelaire, Balzac and Proust.

Europe is the art and architecture of Italy — which acquaints us with a very different idea of the city, as a community of pilgrims. Europe is also the ecstatic religion of Spain and the threatening myths of the Finnish Kalevala. It is a seemingly endless experiment in spiritual possibilities, each unfolding through its own lore and landscape like a tapestry woven by many hands. But when I ask myself what England is in all this, I find myself tending in a new direction.

Language and literature have exalted us to the same heights as the French, the Italians and the Germans. But it is not this that explains our distinctiveness, or our ability to spread ourselves outwards, to detach ourselves from the continent of Europe and to be always elsewhere and elsewhen.

Our apartness is the result of our law: the common law of England, which remains distinct from Scots law even now, after three centuries of the Union. This law, which arose by an invisible hand from the deliberations of countless judges, is the living record of our history. To study it is to explore, case by case, the archaeology of our national genius, to unearth not just decisions, rules and arguments, but the concrete reality of English life and the moving human conflicts that shaped and reshaped our country. On this wonderful artefact of natural justice has been built another: the system of equity, with its concepts of trust and beneficial ownership. Thanks to equity, the English have been able to build institutions without the permission of anyone but themselves, and to bypass the attempts by grandees, monarchs and Parliaments to divest them of their powers.

European courts have begun to unwind our legal inheritance

Anyone who reflects on the diversity of European culture and who understands just what is European in the King James Bible, in Janaček's *Kâta Kabanová*, in Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister* or in the decision of the House of Lords in *Rylands v Fletcher* will know that all these things, deep down, have a common source of life in the Christian religion. But it is not to that source that the European Union refers. On the contrary: the European institutions are secular through and through, animated more by bureaucratic weariness than by the spiritual inheritance of Europe. The seat of power is Brussels — an artificial capital, attached to two unhappy nations, both severed from their history and their linguistic roots by Great Power diplomacy. The directives that issue from Brussels could as well be designed for the administration of Antarctica or the government of the Galapagos Islands as for the wellbeing of Europe. And the feeble attempts by the overfunded and philistine propaganda machine to provide a marketable idea of "European culture" reveal, in their Disneyland vulgarity, the true source of the federal impulse, namely the television culture of modern America.

To an Englishman, however, this "Euro-culture" would be of no significance were it not for the fact that the spiritual achievement which is ours, and which stands to the English people as German music to the Germans, and the idea of Paris to the French, has been directly discounted by the European machine. The European courts — staffed by judges who have no training remotely comparable to that required for the common law — have begun to unwind our legal inheritance, and thereby to destroy our self-understanding as a European people. This violence done to the English is bound to awaken a reaction, even among those who have no knowledge of the common law, but who respond to it with the instinctive sympathy that comes from living under its aegis. But I suspect that the English experience is only one instance of a feeling that is spreading elsewhere in Europe: that if you genuinely love Europe, then you cannot love the European Union.

■ Beau Gesterie in Folkestone? Come off it, says **Philip Howard**

Strong, silent Britons with a past used to enlist in the French Foreign Legion in order to forget a broken heart or to escape the law. Today they are in danger of being impressed into it because they have forgotten to return their French call-up papers. Henry Tuson was arrested on French passport-control territory at Folkestone, handcuffed to gendarmes and shanghaied to army barracks at Lille, because he was suspected of avoiding national service. His arrest was a bureaucratic cock-up *à la godile* (getting his epaulettes in a twist). Master Tuson has a French mother, but he spent only the first three months of his life in France. And his adventure has written a new chapter in the romantic genre of Beau Gesterie.

The lure of the Foreign Legion is strong, in life as in fiction. In life, every European war since the 1830s has swelled the legion's ranks when the armies were unmustered. Soldiers who could not bear to stop fighting joined the legion. After the Falklands escapade of 1982, British recruits rose to one in ten of the legion.

In romantic fiction, the prolific English novelist P.C. Wren created the genre with *Beau Geste* (1925). But the supposed glamour of the legion was spread worldwide by the film, the most popular silent movie of the 1920s, and its talking sequel of 1939 — although in the title role Gary Cooper did not talk so much as create his reputation for being strongly silent. These romances created the myth. In it the legionaries in their white képis, led by their drums and bugles, forever march into the sand dunes towards dusty death. Fort Zinderneuf is strangely silent because it is defended by a garrison of corpses. Sergeant Markoff is shouting: "Keep shooting, you scum! You'll get a chance yet to die with your boots on!" An officer cries: "Tell the Sergeant-Major that an advance party of the Foreign Legion on camels marches *en tenue de campagne d'Afrique* in nine minutes from when I shout *aux armes*. The rest of them on mules."

And, in the words of the Hollywood proverb: "The love of a man for a woman waxes and wanes like the moon, but the love of brother for brother is steadfast as the stars and endures like the word of the Prophet." The glamour was created by the inaccessibility of the stars, the brevity of legionary life, and the self-sacrifice of the heroes beneath their macho crusts. Stir in the attraction of fancy dress Frogging and the mystery of the Sahara *profonde*, where the Tuareg and the mirages roam beyond the oasis. Take a pinch of the legion's motto, *legio patria nostra*. Mix in Rudolph Valentino looking sexy as a sheikh on a camel. And you have a powerful modern myth.

In the deserts of the imagination, bugles still blow, the *tricolore* flies and the rough soldiers of fortune die with their boots on and their shady pasts forgotten. Death cancels all debts. Beau Gesterie has become a movie archetype. It has inspired as many films as Robin Hood or Dracula.

The books, though dated, wildly politically incorrect and snobbish, are still in print. And, at their level, they make rattling good yarns: "'And is it the dying camel that cries all this?' I ask, even as I leap into my belt and boots, and rush to the door and shout, '*Aux armes! Aux armes!*' to my splendid fellows and wish to God they were my Spahis."

And of course, like the books and the films, the myth is tosh. The Foreign Legion does indeed have a long history, but its record is no better than that of other little mercenary armies. Its battle honours are not a patch on those of the Gurkhas. In 1961 one regiment supported Algerian insurgents against the French Government and was disbanded in disgrace.

The myth of its invincibility was always legendary, in the literal sense. But it was finally exploded at Dien Bien Phu when the Viet Minh, without romance or glamorous (or indeed any) uniforms, destroyed the legion. That and the Algerian debacle led to the downfall of the Fourth Republic.

The proper place for Beau Gesterie is the back of the stalls, equipped with popcorn and tissues. Avoid the white képi and all who wear it in real life at all costs. And if you have even the remotest French connections, stay away from passport control.

Passed with flying colours

BA's redesign strikes a blow against dreary corporate images and should raise a cheer for British industry

The ack-ack opened up even before the squadron was airborne. "Unpatriotic ... wallpaper catalogue ... I-Spy guide to world culture ... kids with spray cans could have done better ... so much kitchen-floor lino ... mocked in every corner of the globe ... Air Gabon crossed with Air Inca." Yes, you guessed it. Another British institution is struggling against the odds to break new ground. The one thing the British do even better than break new ground is murder the groundbreakers. Every innovator must have his tormentors. Every first night needs its claque.

Even so, the shrapnel that peppered British Airways' new livery last week was spectacular. Commercial rivals, lobbyists, art critics, trade unionists, MPs, anyone with a mobile number known to the press was summoned to attack the £60 million redesign. Virgin remarked that its own logo "cost nothing". Sebastian Coe said it was "walking away from Britain". The National Art Collections Fund — why them? — said BA was "extravagant and confusing". Brian Sewell said it was "lunacy". Where were the Spice Girls and Arthur Scargill? They must have gone incommunicado.

Let us pause and indulge in a moment's fantasy. Suppose that rather than announce a new livery last week, BA had done the opposite. Suppose all the critics were invited to a conference and told that BA was considering a change but had no ideas. What would these critics suggest — no holds barred, no expense spared?

The debate would have gone like this. BA's existing design would have been rubbished as out of date, that of a ponderous multinational with both feet stuck in British concrete. Since 60 per cent of its passengers are non-British, BA should break away from its chauvinist straitjacket. There should be no more wittering about "flying the flag". The coat of arms and the tail-fin design should go. Most foreigners associate the Union Jack with the underpants of football hooligans. Customers do not want "BA" screamed at them from every damp towelette, any more than they want the relentless chat of the "have-a-nice-day" aircrews.

The radicals at the seminar would have warmed to the theme. Why not do away with corporate identity altogether? Tear up the rulebook. Make each product individual. Adorn every piece of paper or equipment with smiling photographs of people from around the globe. Get rid of corporate logos. Tail-fins are outdated as advertisement hoardings. Use them as flying art galleries. Be daring. Go for David Hockney and Peter Blake. Go for unknowns, for ceramic and calligraphy artists, for folk craftsmen. Cheer up the world. Brighten the sky. Big need not be boring.

All these things would have been said — and meant. And what has BA done? It has done precisely what the critics would have suggested. In other words, it has spoilt their fun. It shot every fox before the hunt had begun, and left the huntsmen fuming at the start. Capitalists are not supposed to do this.

BA's designers, Newell and Sorrell, appear to have detonated a bomb under their profession. Their philosophy, we are told, was that the corporate identity of BA should lie not in logos and standardised design but in quality of service. Transport companies have spent half a century shedding the image of manufacturing industry and learning to "serve". Airlines prosper by word of mouth. That word is quality. The only standardisation should be in personal attention. No amount of paint can cover up incompetence.

The only oddity is that this message should be so revolutionary. I regard most corporate design as visual musak: burps, squiggles and doodles aimlessly filling space. BA needed a signature but saw no reason why it should be the same everywhere. If the product is good, the packaging can afford to be diverse, eyecatching, daring. An airline has a vast quantity of empty space to decorate. A confident business can dare to go "upmarket". It can bring original works of art to the heart of its commercial culture. It can respond to Ruskin's maxim that "industry without art is brutality".

Simon Jenkins

Such flair has long disappeared from public transport. BA's prewar ancestor, Imperial Airways, had such flair. Passengers leaving for Croydon Aerodrome checked in at a Mayfair house, No 13 Charles Street (speedily renamed 12A). The coach out of town boasted "the scent of Balkan Sobranie". Everyone was treated as a VIP and the old Heracles aircraft, none of which survives, offered walnut veneer, deep armchairs and five-course dinners. The Frobisher flying boats, also vanished, were even more magnificent, with bedrooms and promenade areas. The only corporate identity was that of first-class service.

After the war, the world's airlines were dumbed down by nationalisation, a mass market and an obsession with corporate identity. This obsession ruined British design in the 1960s and 1970s. It flattered boardroom egos but its monotony depressed staff and customers alike. It gave Britain the Bass Charrington pub doors, Watney's Red Barrel, the Happy Eater, Network Southeast and BT's appalling phone kiosks, now mercifully departing. Nor was such a grim aesthetic confined to business. One reason why "government" is disliked the world over is that its corporate identity is so monolithic and inhuman. It cannot shed the incubus of bigness.

Some standardised design fits snugly into its surroundings. I believe that the London bus should be red, the London taxi black and the London square stucco. Such rules give dignity to the environment and please the eye. They indicate a community able to discipline itself. Equally a community ready to take risks with art and architecture is a community with self-confidence. Britain has so few murals and public sculptures because it has lacked the patronage of confident civic leaders. Committees rarely take risks.

Perhaps planes are a special case. They are already flying murals, aerial sculptures. BA is not the first to realise this. Braniff asked Alexander Calder to paint one of its planes. Château Mouton Rothschild asked Chagall and others to paint its wine labels. If the art offends — and the art commissioned by BA is hardly offensive — it cannot do so for long. We rarely see a plane for more than a few seconds. The new livery is intended as globally competitive. If BA wants to steal market share from KLM, SAA and Air Canada, I cannot imagine a more decorous way than to daub its planes with work by Dutch, Ndebele and Canadian artists. If the old *City of Dundee* is renamed after the painter Emmly Masanabo, so much the better. They used to name ships after the chairman's mistress.

Such moments of corporate history should be savoured. One critic's response was to inquire whether aircrews would be wearing grass skirts on flights to the Pacific — philistinism reduced to absurdity. BA should turn the tables on its enemies and distribute copies of the dafter comments to its passengers. (I gather the only critics have been British.)

Pandora's Box is now open. Corporate identity is not a proxy for corporate discipline. It deadens initiative rather than elevates it. Acres of standardised paint merely cover up shoddy service. From the studios of collective design came the great carbuncles of the British landscape: the petrol station, the motorway service area, the shopping centre, the motel. All are essays in monotony. All are obtrusively the same, gashes of bland shape, colour and material.

The message has penetrated one of Britain's biggest companies. May it penetrate many more.

Floating vote

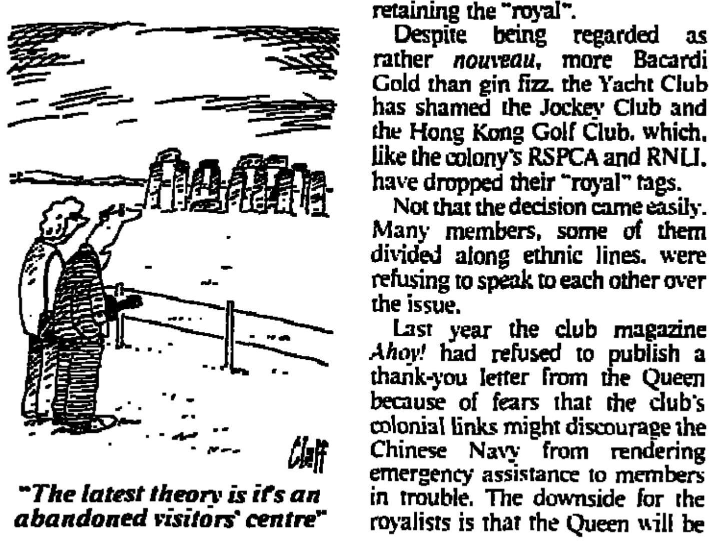
IN a victory for die-in-the-ditch traditionalists, the members of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club have voted to retain their royal title. In an extraordinary meeting on Thursday, members defied a faction led by Club Commodore David Kong, who had hoped that the "Royal" would be dropped to avoid antagonising their new Chinese masters. From the moment of the handover, the club will simply translate its name into Chinese, retaining the "royal".

Despite being regarded as rather *nouveau*, more Bacardi Gold than gin fizz, the Yacht Club has shamed the Jockey Club and the Hong Kong Golf Club, which, like the colony's RSPCA and RNLI, have dropped their "royal" tags.

Not that the decision came easily. Many members, some of them divided along ethnic lines, were refusing to speak to each other over the issue.

Last year the club magazine *Ahoy!* had refused to publish a thank-you letter from the Queen because of fears that the club's colonial links might discourage the Chinese Navy from rendering emergency assistance to members in trouble. The downside for the royalists is that the Queen will be replaced as patron of the club by China's President Jiang Zemin.

With the decision made, however, the club can now look forward to the 24-hour bash it has organised to celebrate the handover. It will be called "One Party, Two Hangovers". It should end the infighting, temporarily.



"The latest theory is it's an abandoned visitors' centre"

THE TIMES DIARY

Tied up

WITH the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, looking like a spare part in his lounge suit at the Mansion House black tie dinner on Thursday night, over in Greenwich the Defence Minister, George Robertson, proved himself more adaptable. At a dinner at the Royal Naval College attended by the Prince of Wales, he arrived in a perfectly pressed white tie, as instructed on the invitation. Had he decided that taking the Brown line just was not worth the inevitable harrumphs he would have received from the Navy? No, says his spokesman at the MoD. "There was no question of Mr Robertson disobeying the dress stipulations. It would have been an insult to the Prince."

● *A fuller picture begins to emerge of the important work being done by Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio. On Thursday, he held a meeting for all junior ministers. While he talked, civil servants were stunned to see the new ministers behaving like eunuchs of the Ming court, obediently nodding and taking down notes as their master spoke wide-rangingly of departmental logos.*

Deep freeze

ARRIVING at the Grosvenor House Arts and Antiques Fair on Thursday evening, Baroness Thatcher ran into her old friend Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare on his way out. What happened next made Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia look like a fair fight. As soon as she spotted Archer, Lady Thatcher's face froze into a terrifying, imperial mask, the sort of face Africans would carve in wood.

Archer began to quail. He even started backing off. Lady T moved in, flanked by her husband Sir Denis. Archer was soon in a corner. Thatcher came within two feet of him. She watched him squirm, then after a few moments turned and walked away. Not a word had passed between the two.

Stares: Archer and Thatcher

Ivana be alone

DESPAIR has set in among London's canapé crowd at the news that Ivana Trump, socialite, has failed to arrive in town for The Season. In previous years, her arrival has been metronomic.

Fears were raised on Thursday night, when she did not show up at the gala preview of the Grosvenor House Arts and Antiques Fair in Park Lane, *de rigueur* for her class. There was still no sign of her last night, when she and her current husband, the Italian businessman Riccardo Mazzuchelli, were due to host a dinner party in aid of the *Accademia Italiana*. Sixteen guests had paid £125 each for the privilege of dining with the couple in their Knightsbridge home.

"Ivana is a very busy woman. She has decided to stay in New York to make some speeches," says a bereft Mazzuchelli, who in his wife's absence has been forced to employ an extra eight staff to arrange the dinner, three alone to do the flowers.

"I am hoping that she will be in London by the end of next week because she is due to appear on *QVC* (a cable shopping channel)," he adds forlornly. Meanwhile, Ascot's Royal Enclosure is bracing itself for the unthinkable — Ladies' Day without Ivana.

Apart: Ivana and husband

P·H·S

IN AMSTERDAM

Blair's first serious international test

Against the background of yesterday's unusually public Franco-German deadlock over the French demands for a European public works programme to boost employment, Tony Blair flies to Amsterdam today. This summit, which is intended to finalise a new European Union treaty to succeed that of Maastricht, is his first important international test. It will not be an easy one.

The Prime Minister is making his sixth journey across the Channel in as many weeks. Since taking office, he has been keen to make the most of his promised "fresh start" in Europe. This is sensible, since fresh starts are, by definition, time-limited. In these initial get-to-know-you encounters his European colleagues have accorded him a warm welcome, not just because goodwill reaps its rewards but because Mr Blair has about him the aura of the EU's most conspicuously popular and successful politician. But this is not to say that Mr Blair has put them entirely at ease. On the contrary, the coalitions of the Left which currently dominate the EU find new Labour's brand of socialism disconcerting and even irritating; they had not expected such zeal for economic deregulation and flexible labour markets.

The polite preliminaries are now over. This summit is about decisions, not mood music; and the final Dutch draft released on Thursday contains clauses that are clearly, and in some instances unexpectedly, inimical to British interests. On the Continent, this treaty is seen as only a minor step to deeper integration. That is not the case.

The issue to which the Government has given most prominence is Britain's control over its borders. In the name of "freedom, security and justice", it is proposed to incorporate into the treaty the Schengen accord eliminating frontiers signed by 13 of the EU's 15 states. Fearing that judgments in the European Court could render an opt-out vulnerable to erosion, the Government has demanded a legally watertight guarantee that Britain retains complete sovereignty over its frontiers and immigration controls.

Since the Government also insists on a full say in the way the new regime works, there is grumbling about Britain wanting to have its cake and eat it too. The new draft indicates, however, that Britain will get what it wants. The same cannot confidently be said about three other vital matters: trade, defence and the rules governing future extensions of co-operation under EU auspices.

Trade is one of the rare issues on which Britain ought to be battling hard for adding to the Commission's powers. It makes sense for the EU to speak with one voice in international trade negotiations and the Commission has a good record of standing up to protectionist pressures from EU governments. It wants the treaty to extend its existing mandate, which covers only trade in goods, to services and intellectual property. This is by no means the "secondary issue" that some diplomats in Brussels have suggested. If the Blair Government is serious about making Europe competitive, here is where it should be seen to lead the free-trading Benelux and Nordic countries against the protectionists headed by France.

Such a positive commitment to European integration would also help Mr Blair to keep the veto ready, as he must, against two other proposals. The first is the Franco-German plan to absorb the Western European Union into the EU — a move Britain has consistently opposed on the ground that the EU is not and should never be a military alliance. The second is "flexibility", the arrangement whereby some EU countries may embark on fresh areas of co-operation which others do not want to join. Britain agrees with the principle — but only if any such decision is unanimous. Mr Blair's Dutch friends have abruptly changed the draft to make this a matter for qualified majority vote. Britain is almost certain to be isolated. Even if that appals Mr Blair, it should not deter him.

The Prime Minister's ambitions for Amsterdam go beyond the immediate business of this negotiation. Together with Gordon Brown, he has begun a crusade for the dynamic economic and labour market policies that alone can generate, through enhanced growth and competitiveness, the jobs Europe needs. The message falls on stony ground for now; governments are too obsessed with the struggle to fit inside the EMU straitjacket. But the more strains appear in the EMU project, the more necessary will be a new strategy around which European publics as well as governments can unite. Mr Blair's understanding that language matters had much to do with his election victory. It could yet be the key to a successful British strategy for Europe.

HEALTHY FIGURES

Labour should keep tax relief on healthcare for the over-60s

There are often good reasons why the unthinkable has not been thought, and a shrewd politician will ensure that policy reviews are properly focused on reforms which have a sporting chance of enactment. It is, nevertheless, a shade unfortunate for Frank Dobson that his honest, and undoctrinaire, attempt to get to grips with the funding crisis in the health service should have been sabotaged by scares.

There is a case for reviewing charges in the NHS. The principle of free care at the point of need was breached almost at birth by the 1945-51 Labour Government. Charges may deter some but will also make the behaviour of others more rational. The current review, however, has only just begun. Where Labour can be criticised is on a policy already in place which elevates egalitarianism above efficiency.

The Government is committed to abolishing tax relief on private medical insurance for those over 60. The change should yield, on the basis of 1995-96 figures, around £100 million for the Exchequer. It will damage the private medical sector and for no overwhelming benefit. The sum that would be raised by abolition would currently cover the NHS's wage bill for just 32 hours.

That gain is, in any case, likely to be wiped out by the burden placed on the NHS from those currently taking advantage of the scheme who will no longer be able to afford insurance. Insurers calculate that at least a third, and probably more, of those over 60 who enjoy insurance cover will drop out. The taxpayer will have clawed back 23 per cent of the cost of all private medical insurance for those over 60 but will then find himself covering the healthcare costs for at least 33 per cent of those people.

Although the Exchequer might think that it will gain by recouping 23 per cent of the premiums while only bearing costs, and thus gains a sure thing in return for a risk, the reality of healthcare for the over-60s makes it a bad bargain. The insurers estimate that at least 80 per cent, and in some cases up to 100 per cent, of premiums in that age range are paid back in treatment claims. On the most optimistic industry estimate, the NHS will find itself paying more to care for patients no longer privately insured than it could hope to gain from the abolition of tax relief. The insurers' guess that the NHS will lose £200 million. It is a curious piece of surgery which would see Labour cutting off its fiscal nose to spite its public face.

Away from the actuarial drawing board, there are broader policy reasons for reversing this pledge. The rationale behind any form of charging, even on existing prescriptions, is a broad attempt to ensure that those who can afford it make a contribution to their own care. Encouraging any citizen to take out private provision relieves the burden on the health service. Rather than forcing patients who use the NHS to contemplate charges, why not tempt more people to pay for their care outside? The NHS could then use the same resources for fewer patients, and would be more capable of providing care without additional charges. Both for those who wish to go private, and those who could never afford to do so, it would be both more rational and more reassuring.

SQUARING THE STONE CIRCLE

Ancient Stonehenge needs modernisation, and money

Stonehenge has cut its stark silhouette against the Wiltshire skies for more than five millennia. Its origins are wreathed in mystery. Now its future is beginning to appear equally uncertain.

The tranquillity of this prehistoric site has long been disrupted by modernity. Only 300 yards away the A344 slices through the landscape. More seriously, the rumble of traffic on the A303 trunk road sets the stones vibrating for 18 out of 24 hours. Conservationists express grave concern. English Heritage, the quango that owns the site, has proposed a £44 million project to grass over the nearest road and build a visitor centre three miles away. This would restore the windswept plains to their desolation. Yesterday the Millennium Commission refused to provide half the funds for the project from lottery cash.

Too cavalier an attitude has been taken to many of our monuments. In London the postwar development of Paternoster Square still blights the setting of St Paul's Cathedral. The Tower of London stands marooned amid polluted highways. It would be overly complicated to disrupt the tight urban infrastructure of our capital, but Stonehenge, with its more accomodating setting in rural Witshire, lends itself more easily to major improvement.

A million people visit Stonehenge a year, of whom more than half find it disappointing. Its tourist facilities are dismal. An educational centre would help to guide people through the topography of an area which includes some 450 prehistoric sites. It would also divert the bored or impatient tourists who linger in the stone circle, trampling and damaging its surrounds.

The hostile barriers which now surround and sully the primeval purity of the site would be dismantled. Those with a serious interest, or who seek to communicate more closely with our ancient heritage, would be able to study the stones at close quarters.

In the past five years, some £2 million has been spent researching the alternative scheme for Stonehenge. This money must not be wasted. If the Millennium Commission's objections really are insuperable, this is an ideal opportunity for enterprising elements within the private sector to take up the challenge of investing in our heritage. It ought to be a profitable venture both for the investors and for the nation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Tories invited to listen and learn

From Lord Feldman

Sir, The most important task of the newly elected Conservative leader will be the appointment of the party chairman.

As Chairman of the National Union between 1991 and 1996, I had the opportunity of working with four party chairmen — each with different personalities, abilities, skills and experience.

Although politics can't be directly compared with business, few people would invest in a major company which had four executive chairmen in five years. The new leader should not, therefore, appoint someone simply as a reward for the work that they have done in his leadership campaign. We need a long-term chairman.

The party chairman must be a good listener and have a warm personality, to inspire and enthuse party workers. He must also have presentational skills and be receptive to new technology.

He has to find a little time each week to walk around Central Office, talking to people in their offices and building morale. He does not need to be an MP — I can remember the days of the Thatcher/Thorneycroft duo, which for many years was an outstanding success.

There may be a case for joint chairmen, one to travel around the country, "cuddling" party workers and helping to bring new people into the party, while the other is based at Central Office, developing political strategy and ensuring that Central Office is run economically and efficiently.

All in all, this is a complex job (or jobs), but once we get the right leader, and the right chairman, we can then start our fightback.

Yours faithfully,
FELDMAN,
House of Lords.
June 12.

From the National Chairman of the Young Conservatives

Sir, Much has been made of this week's survey of grassroot Conservative opinion on the leadership election. The consultation clearly showed that the campaign is a two-horse race between Ken Clarke and William Hague. However, the survey did not provide a complete picture of grassroot opinion.

Whilst the survey took account of the views of natural Ken Clarke supporters, such as Members of the European Parliament, it did not cover the branch chairmen of the youth sections of the Conservative Party. Our own survey of the opinions of Young Conservative branch chairmen prior to the first round revealed 57 per cent support for William Hague, 17 per cent for Peter Lilley, 8 per cent each for John Redwood and Ken Clarke and 7 per cent for Michael Howard.

The Conservative Party desperately needs an energetic leader, committed to reform of the party, who can attract more young supporters. It also needs a leader who can unite the grassroot supporters in their opposition to a single currency. It is overwhelmingly the view of young members of the party that William Hague is the candidate best placed for the job.

Yours faithfully,
JASON D. HOLLANDS,
National Chairman,
Young Conservatives,
32 Smith Square, SW1.
June 12.

From Mr Andrew Reid and others

Sir, The next Conservative Party leader should be able to appeal to the entire student population. The party needs a leader who can embrace the pragmatic centre ground of British politics, espousing the free-market politics with a social conscience to which ordinary students can relate. More importantly, we need a leader whom students from every walk of life can respect — a leader who can appeal to all.

Kenneth Clarke is the only candidate who can do this: his compassionate social outlook and his commitment to the opportunities which European Union membership affords strike a chord with students. Not only does he understand how to run the successful market economy upon which graduate jobs depend but his down-to-earth nature makes him the natural choice of centre-right students.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW REID
(National Chairman,
Conservative Students, 1994-95),
JUSTIN POWELL-TUCK (1995-96),
MICHAEL HALL (1996-97),
21 Charlbert Court,
Charlbert Street, NW8.
June 12.

From Mrs Elspeth Foster

Sir, Having always voted Conservative I am appalled at the apparent arrogance of the party when it comes to voting for the new leader. They are completely ignoring the stated wishes of the rank and file. We do not want William Hague — we have said so through the constituency chairmen — and yet, still, our handful of MPs are bent on imposing him on us as leader.

Kenneth Clarke has clout, credibility and parliamentary presence. Furthermore, he cannot be accused of being boring.

Yours etc,
ELSPETH FOSTER,
55 Vale Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire.
June 13.

Artists review critics' performance

From Mr Philip Langridge

Sir, Melvyn Bragg ("The accused deserves the right to reply", Arts, June 9) is right when he says that "the critics say whatever they want in public"; but actually so do we the artists. We say what *we* believe in public through our chosen artistic medium, and there are many different ways of saying it.

Surely the whole point of the arts is to probe and question. We do this in our own individual ways — I as an opera singer — and yet there is a risk of taking ourselves too seriously.

The article seemed to me to assume that the reviewer (a better word than "critic") is usually negative, but in my experience praise is often given where it is due.

For me, the saddest part of the deal is that some readers who do not attend a performance will accept a review as fact and become experts in that which they have not experienced.

Perhaps we could compromise by beginning any review with a statement that this is only one person's informed opinion on that particular day and (as is often mentioned in your financial pages) that the value of praise "may rise as well as fall" in subsequent performance.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP LANGRIDGE,
Wellfield House, Brook,
Nr Godalming, Surrey.
June 9.

From Mr Colin Simms

Sir, My thanks as a poet to Melvyn Bragg for another thought-provoking piece; especially for the unlikely prospect of makers and critics "arguing" publicly.

As an instance of an artist who has suffered the careless lash of the critics, Mr Bragg cites R. B. Kitaj, the painter whose "revenge play on canvas" has just won a £25,000 award for "the most distinguished" work at the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition (reports and photographs, May 28 and June 12).

Another who suffered the same fate was the Scottish poet Hugh MacDiarmid, who introduced me to Kitaj's work some 20-odd years ago. He predicted to me then that Kitaj would suffer "at least as much" as he had; but we agreed it was perhaps better to have even bitter critics than no notice at all, which is what happened and does happen to too many true "makars" (Scots: creator/poet), often until their careers are mature or even over.

Who knows how they might be affected, their work modified, by timely critical attention? But in the end, as MacDiarmid and many another have declared, few critics really *matter*, and true artists often have (not merely say they have) literally no time for critics or for arguing with them. Real *work* must go on . . .

Yours faithfully,
COLIN SIMMS,
Cross Fell Cottage,
Garrigill, nr Alston, Cumbria.
June 12.

From Mr Ken Rowat

Sir, In my view, as a writer and a former painter, an "artists bite back" feature would quickly run out of steam. Genuine artists are usually too preoccupied with their work to bother with enervating polemics.

Such an arena would also be of questionable benefit to practitioners in the visual arts, for while writers can defend themselves effectively, most painters and sculptors make a hash of trying to express themselves coherently with words.

We might as well let the critics have plenty of rope — they have always proved so entertainingly good at hanging themselves.

Yours faithfully,
KEN ROWAT,
24 George Street, Sherborne, Dorset.
June 10.

Press freedom

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, I have long upheld press freedom. On becoming Lord Chancellor I resigned after a long stint on the Appointments Commission to the Press Complaints Commission. Mr Howard Gander's notion (letter, June 13) that I would threaten press freedom is bizarre.

Labour had a manifesto commitment to undertake a wide-ranging review both of Lord Woolf's proposed reforms of civil justice and of legal aid. Press briefings are for the specialist press. I invited all the specialist legal correspondents to a briefing on the day after I appointed Sir Peter Middleton to conduct the review. It was confined to the subject of the review. This is the single most important subject that I have to address in my first year as Lord Chancellor. No one could doubt that it merits a press briefing for specialists in its own right.

My chairmanship of key Cabinet committees, concerned with the Government's programme of constitutional reform, is well known. It is equally well known that the discussions of these committees are confidential. That has been the invariable practice of successive governments. Journalists would not be doing their job if they did not attempt to question me at my first press briefing on the development of that programme. In due time I will be giving interviews on this, too. Meanwhile, what was needed was a focused press briefing on the subjects Sir Peter will consider.

There was no "implied threat of possible banishment if they did not do as they were told". On the contrary, I see great merit in being open and frank with the press about the subjects on which they will be interviewing me.

After the briefing, when my press officer was showing the journalists out, she indeed said: "I look forward to seeing what you all write tomorrow." We certainly did. What they wrote was full and fair.

Yours,
IRVINE of LAIRG,
House of Lords.
June 13.

The business of charity

From Mr Roger Opie

Sir, Peter Mandelson's call for a partnership for job creation between the Government and charities and voluntary organisations is a most welcome initiative (report, June 9). The not-for-profit sector could provide an invaluable working environment for jobless young people as well as for the long-term unemployed.

Charities have had to become extremely businesslike in a world of limited resources; working in this sector is not simply a question of campaigning for just causes, worthwhile though that clearly is. Skills and capabilities can be acquired that will boost anyone's employability. High standards of ethical behaviour, sometimes lacking elsewhere, are usually to be found.

Mr Mandelson also urges charities to adopt more sophisticated techniques when dealing with the media.

Although there has been no shortage of unfavourable coverage recently, the real issue is not the media's portrayal of charities' work but the commitment of government to help both young people and the not-for-profit sector. Mr Mandelson could create a success without overstretching public funds.

As an undoubted good cause, job-creation schemes would be an uncontroversial destination for the National Lottery's substantial profits.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER OPIE
(Director of Educational Services),
The Industrial Society,
Robert Hyde House,
48 Bryanston Square, W1.

From the Director of Reach

Sir, Mr Mandelson suggests charities should adopt more of the techniques of political spin-doctors in order to exploit the media better.

Many charities would be happy to emulate his success but lack the professional know-how to make newsworthy stories from the many positive achievements of the voluntary sector and not just from the usual scandals and disasters.

We recruit retired people with wide-ranging managerial or professional experience and place them as volunteers with other charities needing their expertise. With a few more PR professionals coming forward to offer their skills — perhaps just for one or two days a week — we could start to make Peter Mandelson's vision a reality.

Yours sincerely,
JILL I. MUNDAY,
Director, Reach,
Bear Wharf, 27 Bankside, SE1.
June 10.

Trees in Oxfordshire

From Mr Nicholas Potter

Sir, Mr Nicholas Albery, who proposes the planting of an avenue of the most common British trees as a millennium project (letter, June 3), may like to know that the Oxfordshire Woodland Group is establishing an arboretum along similar lines at a site near Wittenham Clumps, south of Oxford. The inaugural tree — a native oak — was planted in December 1996.

The trees are not planted in the alphabetical order that Mr Albery proposes: that would not suit the landscape or the shape of the wood, and it is simply not natural. The physical characteristics of trees have to be taken into account — a group of Wellingtonia could soon suppress groups of walnut and whitebeam planted on either side.

Each species has its own informally shaped block, so that the overall effect will eventually be that of mature woodland, providing a wide range of wildlife habitats as well as catering for educational needs. Commonly confused species, such as Common oak and Sessile oak, are being planted next to each other for comparative purposes.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS POTTER (Chairman,
Oxfordshire Woodland Group),
Lees Rest, Charlbury, Oxfordshire.
June 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Dilemma facing the Fitzwilliam

From the Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Sir, In their rush to judgment on the proposed extension to the Fitzwilliam Museum's Founder's Building designed by George Basevi, both Marcus Binney (report, June 7) and John Adamson (article, same day) overlooked the overall development plan for the museum of which the proposed north wing is a part.

Among the drawings which Basevi supplied to the university there is a plan, dated June 29, 1836, which shows lateral extensions to the north and south of his proposed building. When Smith & Brewer's south extension was projected in 1922 there were objections (not from Peterhouse, who sold the land for the purpose) which the resounding success of their Marlay galleries overcame.

It is not surprising that John Miller's designs raise concerns, but they deserve careful consideration, not dismissal out of hand. Far from demolishing any part of Basevi's building, Miller's proposed addition to the north side is both modest in scale and highly respectful. Its one offence, apparently, is to be visible from Peterhouse.

The north wing forms part of a larger scheme which includes, for £10.9 million, another building in the courtyard at the southern end of the museum. Both are designed to make up the deficit of space which has existed in the museum throughout the century. They also reflect important changes in museum use; less to do with the growth of the collections than with caring for them, displaying them and interpreting them in one of the world's finest university museums.

Mr Adamson admits no such functions for this or any museum. Instead he treats buildings as works of art isolated from their purposes. It is a sad reflection that, from the other side of the garden wall, the museum is seen by some only as a facade.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN ROBINSON,
Director, The Fitzwilliam Museum,
Trumpington Street, Cambridge.
June 10.

From Dr Selby Whittingham

Sir, If Mr Adamson's analysis of museums' tendency to perpetual growth is correct, then the abandonment of the proposed extension to the Fitzwilliam Museum's Basevi Building for which he pleads can only be the postponement of an evil. In due course even bigger extensions on the same site will be needed and eventually covetous eyes will be turned on Peterhouse itself.

On the same day as Mr Adamson's article, you report the problems Cambridge experiences from having too many visitors. A vital society would create new centres of excellence rather than inflate existing ones until they burst. The adage that either museums grow or die is disproved by those enjoyably modest ones to which the power of enlarging their collections has been denied by their founders.

Yours faithfully,
SELBY WHITTINGHAM,
Turner House,
153 Cromwell Road, SW5.

Controlled fusion

From Professor M. G. Haines

Sir, Your report, "Big lasers pose threat to peace, experts say" (June 5), states scientists' fear that large lasers currently being developed in the US and France may lead to devices able to ignite thermonuclear explosions without the need for a fission trigger. The report did not say that these lasers will be the size of Wembley Stadium and, for all their precision and power, will only trigger sufficient fusion energy to make a pot of tea.

The purpose of these lasers is essentially scientific and is part of the mission "Stockpile Stewardship".

In keeping with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the experimental data obtained will help verify computer simulations related to the maintenance of Western nuclear defence in the absence of underground tests. There is no new weapon here, but indeed, as stated, it could be a stepping-stone to controlled fusion.

Yours sincerely,
M. G. HAINES,
Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine,
The Blackett Laboratory,
Prince Consort Road, SW7.

Talking point

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, This morning I received a letter from a company describing themselves as "international publishing consultants". It referred to a letter of mine that you were recently kind enough to publish in your columns (May 26).

This letter, I am informed, "shows outstanding literary merit and an exceptionally high standard of creative writing. It was the subject of our weekly discussion group".

What was the object of these consultants' adulation? It was what I refer to as "a bottom right-hand corner one-liner", a single sentence of 26 words.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay, Devon.
June 13.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 13: His Excellency Archbishop Luigi Barbarito was received in farewell audience by The Queen this morning and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Apostolic Nuncio from the Holy See to the Court of St James's and upon retiring as Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps.

His Excellency Dr Richard Grant was received in audience by Her Majesty upon his appointment as High Commissioner for New Zealand in London.

Mrs Grant was also received by The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel, Grenadier Guards, this evening presided over a Conference attended by the Colonels of the Regiments of the Household Division and subsequently entertained the Colonels to Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 13: The Princess Royal, Visitor, Dorothy House Foundation Macmillan Service, this morning visited the House at Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire (Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Johnston).

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 13: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, today visited Catterick Garrison, when Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, presented a new Guidon to The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish).

The Lady Angela Oswald, Sir Alastair Aird, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Richards and Major Charles MacEwan were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 13: The Prince of Wales this morning gave a Reception to launch the Disability Partnership, formerly The Prince of Wales's Advisory Group on Disability, at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness this afternoon gave a Reception to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of India and Pakistan's Independence.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel, Welsh Guards, this evening attended the Senior Colonels' Conference and Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 13: The Duke of Gloucester, Commissioner, English Heritage, returned to London at the conclusion of the Commissioners' Annual Tour to Cornwall.

The Duchess of Gloucester today visited West Sussex and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Major General Sir Philip Ward).

Her Royal Highness attended a Service in Chichester Cathedral to mark the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the Prebendal School and later opened the new main building of St Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Queen will take the Salute at The Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards at 11.00 and will take the Salute at a Fly Past of RAF Aircraft from the Balcony of Buckingham Palace at 1.00. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother will be present.

Princess Margaret, President, will attend a gala dinner at Drumoig, Leuchars, Fife, at 8.05 in aid of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, during the Drumoig golf invitational.

TOMORROW: The Duchess of Gloucester, Vice Patron, The Queen's Club, will attend a luncheon and later present the prizes at the Stella Artois Championship Men's Singles Final at Palliser Road, London W14 at 12.25.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, will attend the Surrey v Yorkshire cricket match, at the Oval at 1.45.

Janet Lady Falkiner

Lady Falkiner, late of Wood Street, Barnet, wishes to be styled Janet Lady Falkiner.

Abingdon School

The following have been elected to Foundation Scholarships (list in order of merit):

Academic
Stephen Brooks, Buckler's Mead Com S, Yeovil/Abingdon S, (Mercers'); Thomas Ainsworth, Dragon S, (Mercers'); Mark Nowottny, New College S; Thomas Garton Ash, Dragon S; John Findlay, New College S; Conrad Mason, Dragon S; Tom Gallard, St Andrew's S, (Duxbury); Thomas Adams, Dunmore PS/Abingdon S; Julian Tolan, Josca's Prep S; Patrick Vale, New College S; Christopher Brookes, Dragon S; Michele Taroni, New College S; Jonathan Clare, St Andrew's S; Jamie Hedges, Dragon S; John Szurko, Rush Common CPS/Abingdon S; Martin Rowland, Our Lady's Convent S/Abingdon S; Nicholas Evans, Wantage CES/Abingdon S.

Music
John Findlay, New College S; Nicholas Fuggle, New College S; Roderick Morris, New College S; William Bartlett, St Nicolas CES/Abingdon S, (Honorary); Oliver Horton, Our Lady's Convent S/Abingdon S, (Honorary).

Music Exhibitions
Edward Allen, St Andrew's S/Abingdon S; Hujong Chi, Frideswide Middle S, Oxford; Benjamin Darling, Goring CPS/Abingdon S; Hugh Langford, Streatley CPS/Abingdon S; Thomas Richards, St Edmund's RCPS/Abingdon S; Michele Taroni, New College S; Edward Webber, St Nicolas CES/Abingdon S.

Art and Design Exhibitions
Nicholas Betteridge, Dragon S; David Rowley, Shatin JS, Hong Kong/Abingdon S.

Service dinners

RN College Greenwich
The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Navy Barristers held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Captain D.R. Humphrey, Chief Naval Judge Advocate, presided. Among others present were:

The Judge Advocate of the Fleet, the Chief Naval Supply Officer, the Admiral President of the College, the Director of Legal Services RAF, the Director of Army Legal Services and Mr Justice Douglas Brown.

King's African Rifles and East African Forces Dinner Club
Major-General R.S.N. Mans, president-elect, was the principal guest at the 50th anniversary dinner of the King's African Rifles and East African Forces Dinner Club held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Brigadier M.W. Biggs, president, was in the chair.

Service luncheon

The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)
Colonel J.N.D. Lucas presided at a luncheon of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) held yesterday at the Army and Navy Club.

Dinner

Feltmakers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, presented the Feltmakers' Company's Feltmaker award for 1997 to Miss Toshiko Kubo of Kensington and Chelsea College at a dinner held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Nicholas Mellstrom, Master of the Feltmakers' Company, assisted by the Wardens, presided. Lord Hussey of North Bradley also spoke.

Luncheons

Fruiterers's Company
Mr Derek Tullett, Master of the Fruiterers' Company, accompanied by the Wardens, Liverymen and their ladies, yesterday planted fruit trees at Château Mouton Rothschild in France, and were entertained at luncheon by Baroness Philippine de Rothschild who had earlier received the gift of the Company.

Securities Institute
The Lord Mayor was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Securities Institute held yesterday at Centurion House. Mr Graham Ross Russell, chairman, presided.

Christopher Sharp

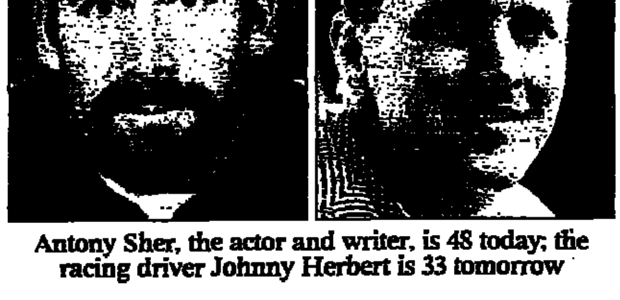
A memorial service for Christopher Sharp, CBE, Managing Director, Northern Rock, President, International Union for Housing Finance, former Chairman of The Building Societies Association and Council for Mortgage Lenders, will be held on Monday, June 23, at All Saints, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 3.00pm.

Weekend birthdays

The Queen celebrates her official birthday today.

TODAY: Dr Sir James Black, FRS, pharmacologist, 73; Mr Paul Boateng, MP, 46; Dame Florence Cayford, former member, LCC and GLC, 100; Professor Peter Fowler, archaeologist, 61; Miss Steffi Graf, tennis player, 28; Lady Healey, writer, 79; Mr Stuart Holmes, registrar (protocol), Westminster Abbey, 49; Mr David LeRoy-Lewis, former chairman, Henry Ansbacher Holdings, 79; Mrs Yvonne Moores, chief nursing officer, Department of Health, 56; Sir Gerrard Peat, chartered accountant, 77; Mr Jonathan Raban, author, 55; Lord Rathcavan, 58; Dame Rosemary Rue, former president, BMA, 69; Professor Sir Trevor Smith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ulster, 60; Mr James Wright, Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle upon Tyne University, 58; Mr Mike Yarwood, impressionist, 56.

TOMORROW: Mr Richard Baker, broadcaster, 72; Mr Simon Callow, actor, 48; Sir Tim Chessells, chairman, Legal Aid Board, 56; Miss Mary Ellis, actress and singer, 97; Sir John Fretwell, diplomat, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir Joseph Gilbert, 66; the Right Rev Trevor Huddleston, founding patron, Action for Southern Africa, 84; Mr John Humphries, former chairman, Water Space Amenity Commission, 72; Mr Frank Jordan, former Chief Constable, Kent, 67; Mr H.G.N. Lee, former member of Davis Cup team, 90; Admiral Sir Charles Madden, 91; Mr J.S. Morrison, former President, Wolfson College, Cambridge, 84; Lord Murray, 75; Dr David Newsome, former Master, Wellington College, 68; Professor Paul Patterson, composer, 50; the Right Rev John Perry, Bishop of Chelmsford, 62; Mr John Redwood, MP, 46; Miss M.F. Rudland, Headmistress, Godolphin and Latymer School, 52; Mr Sukhdev Sharma, chief executive, Commission for Racial Equality, 51; the Rev Martin Smyth, MP, 66; Sir Ninian Stephen, former Governor-General of Australia, 74; Lord Whitty, 54.



Antony Sher, the actor and writer, is 48 today; the racing driver Johnny Herbert is 33 tomorrow

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Thomas Pennant, naturalist, Downing, Flintshire, 1726; Charles Augustin de Coulomb, physicist, Angoulême, France, 1736; Harriet Beecher Stowe, novelist, Litchfield, Connecticut, 1811; John McCormack, tenor, Athlone, 1884; Che Guevara, guerrilla leader, Rosario, Argentina, 1928.

DEATHS: Sir Henry Vane, parliamentarian, executed, London, 1662; Colin Maclaurin, mathematician, Edinburgh, 1746; James Short, optician and astronomer, London, 1768; Benedict Arnold, officer in American Revolution, later a traitor, London, 1801; Giacomo Leopardi, poet, Naples, 1837; Edward Fitzgerald, translator of *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*, Merton, Norfolk, 1883; Alexander Ostrovsky, dramatist, Shchelykova, Russia, 1886; Jerome K. Jerome, author of *Three Men in a Boat*, Northampton, 1927; Emmeline Pankhurst, suffragette, London, 1928; G.K. Chesterton, writer, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1936; Maxim Gorky, novelist, Gorky, Russia, 1936; John Logie Baird, pioneer of television, Bexhill, Sussex, 1946; Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine writer, Geneva, 1986; Bernard Miles, actor, founder of the Mermaid Theatre, London, 1991.

The Royalists were defeated by Cromwell's New Model Army at Naseby, Northamptonshire, 1645.

The Austrians were defeated by Napoleon at the Battle of Marengo, 1800.

The Germans entered Paris, 1940.

Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment, 1964.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Edward the Black Prince, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, 1330; Thomas Randolph, poet and dramatist, Daventry, 1605; Sidney Godolphin, 1st Earl of Godolphin, statesman, Helston, Cornwall, baptised this day, 1645; Hablot K. Browne (Phiz), illustrator, Kennington, 1815; Edvard Grieg, composer, Bergen, Norway, 1843; Ion Antonescu, Romanian dictator, Pitesti, 1882; Harry Langdon, silent film comedian, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1884; Yuri Andropov, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party 1982-84, Nagutskaya, Russia, 1914.

DEATHS: Wat Tyler, leader of the Peasants' Revolt, executed, London, 1381; James Polk, 11th American President 1845-49, Nashville, Tennessee, 1849; Mihail Eminescu, poet, Bucharest, 1889; Charles Francis Bush, inventor of the arc lamp, Cleveland, Ohio, 1929; Percy George Herbert Fender, Surrey and England cricketer, Exeter, 1985.

At Runnymede, near Windsor, King John set his seal on Magna Carta, 1215.

The Duke of York laid the foundation stone of the new London Bridge, 1825.

Charles Goodyear patented vulcanised rubber, 1844.

The 49th parallel was established as the border between Canada and America, 1846.

Titles of new peers

Baron Molyneaux of Killead
The life barony conferred upon Sir James Henry Molyneaux has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Molyneaux of Killead**, of Killead in the County of Antrim

Baron Evans of Parkside
The life barony conferred upon Mr John Evans has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Evans of Parkside**, of St Helens in the County of Merseyside.

Baron Lofthouse of Pontefract
The life barony conferred upon Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Lofthouse of Pontefract**, of Pontefract in the County of West Yorkshire.

Baron Kelvedon
The life Barony conferred upon Mr Henry Paul Guinness Channon by the name, style and title of **Baron Kelvedon**, of Ongar in the County of Essex.

Baron Alton of Liverpool
The barony conferred upon Mr David Patrick Paul Alton has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Alton of Liverpool**, of Mossley Hill in the County of Merseyside.

Baron Mayhew of Twysden, QC
The barony conferred upon Sir Patrick Barnabas Burke Mayhew, QC, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of **Baron Mayhew of Twysden**, of Kilndown in the County of Kent.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Stephen Adams, Vicar, Badby w Newnham and Charwelton w Fawsley and Preston Capes (Peterborough): to be Rector, St Peter and St Paul, Abington.

The Rev Derek Akker, Vicar, St Stephen's and All Martyrs, Lever Bridge, Bolton (Manchester): to be Team Vicar, Wolstanton Team with special responsibility for Bradwell St Barnabas (Lichfield).

Lord Mayhew

The Speaker was represented by Mr Michael Martin, First Deputy Chairman, Ways and Means, at the service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Mayhew held on Thursday in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.H. Ardern and Miss C.V. Penney
The engagement is announced between Gareth, younger son of Mr and Mrs Derek Ardern, of Ingham, Norfolk, and Claire, elder daughter of the Hon Martin and Mrs Penney, of Dulwich, London.

Mr T.I. McDonald and Miss C. Cornish-Bowden
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr Anthony and the Hon Mrs McDonald, of Somerset West, South Africa, and Caroline, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Simon Cornish-Bowden.

Mr P. Astbury and Miss E.S. Davies
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Astbury, of Chester, and Emma Sian, daughter of Mr and Mrs Haydn Davies, of Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

Mr M.W. Bygott and Miss K.R. Davenport
The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Roger Bygott, of Tetford, Lincolnshire, and Kathrine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Davenport, of Higham Hall, Leicestershire.

Mr L.A.H. Charlton and Miss V.R.W. Jackson
The engagement is announced between Leonard Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Charlton, of Southmoor, Oxfordshire, and Victoria, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Jackson, of Midgham Green, Berkshire.

Mr W.J. Holes and Miss J.C. Passini
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael William Holes, of Luton, and Charlotte, daughter of Mrs Cynthia Passini, of Hampstead, and the late Mr John Passini.

Mr W.D.S.D. Jones and Miss J.A. de Satgé
The engagement is announced between William David Stephen Darke, son of Mr and Mrs David Jones, of Kingston, Surrey, and Judith Anne, eldest daughter of the late Rev John and Mrs de Satgé.

Mr I.M. Loveless and Miss A.C. Bell
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Loveless, of Hornchurch, Essex, and Andrea, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Bell, of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset.

Mr G.R. Luxton and Miss F.J. Derrick
The engagement is announced between Gavin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Luxton, of Lake Macquarie, NSW, Australia, and Freya, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Derrick, of Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr S.J. O'Flynn and Miss E.A.M. Pfistermüller
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Squadron Leader Fenton O'Flynn, of York, and Mrs Marilyn Wilkinson, of Horncastle, Lincolnshire, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Max Pfistermüller, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr A.D. Parsons and Miss J.D. Pietrangelo
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ken Parsons, of Romsey, Hampshire, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Carlo Pietrangelo, of New York.

Mr M.G.L. Whiteley and Miss L.J. Heal
The engagement is announced between Marcus, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Whiteley and the late Mrs Fiona Whiteley and stepson of Mrs Jane Whiteley, of Hatherleigh, Devon, and Louisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Heal, of Claygate, Surrey.

Marriages

Dr T.P.G. Sheeran and Miss A.R. Brown
The marriage took place on Saturday, June 7, 1997, at Holy Trinity RC Church, Sutton Coldfield, of Dr Thomas Patrick Gerard Sheeran, eldest son of Mr and Dr Edmond Sheeran, of Galway, Ireland, to Miss Angela Rogan Brown, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Brown, of Sutton Coldfield. Canon William O'Sullivan officiated, assisted by Father Richard Dinnis and Father Sean O'Connor.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Alison Murray, Mrs Tracey O'Donnell, Dr Rachael Sheeran, Miss Helen Sheeran, Phoebe O'Donnell and Grace Murray. Dr Padraig Sheeran was best man.

A reception was held at The Belfry Hotel, Wishaw, and the honeymoon is being spent in Spain.

Mr M.H. Standish and Miss C.M. Mackinnon
The marriage took place on Saturday, June 7, between Mr Mark Harley Standish, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Standish, of Greenville, North Carolina, and Miss Charlotte Melloney Mackinnon, daughter of the late Mr Thomas Mackinnon and of Mrs Rowena Mackinnon, of Milngavie. The Very Rev Dr John Paterson officiated.

Mr A.F. Tinsley and Miss M.M. Hogan
The marriage took place on May 24, 1997, at The Lady Chapel, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, of Mr Alan Tinsley, son of the late Mr and Mrs Edward Tinsley, to Miss Margaret Hogan, daughter of the late Mr Patrick Hogan and of Mrs Patrick Hogan, of Clonskeagh, Dublin. Canon Cecil Mills and Monsignor Seamus Conway officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Dr Thomas Hogan, was attended by Miss Patricia Hogan and Jean Hogan. Mr Denis Tinsley was best man.

Church services tomorrow

Third Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 Choral E.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Rutter in D, O blest are those (Inwood), Rev T Scott; 3.15 Ch E, Noble in B minor, The Lord hath been mindful (Wesley).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Ch C, Come, let's rejoice (Amner), Missa collegium regale (Howells); 3.30 S, Responses (Clucas), Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Thee we adore (Mawby), Rev C Chapman; 4 Ch E, Responses (Sanders), Dyson in D.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, Deep River (Saunders), Canon Hindley; 10.30 Euch, Wood in the Phrygian Mode, Rev B Humphries; 4 Ch E, Beatus vir (Monteverdi), Canon Galilee.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11 M, Te deum in F (Ireland), O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), Canon B Jones; 3.30 E, Wesley in F, Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Wesley).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, If ye love me (Tallis), Missa brevis (Ives), Rev T Whatmough; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Smith), Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), the Dean.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Rev J Giles; 3.15 E, Responses (Lloyd), Collegium Regale (Tavener); 6.30 ES, Rev P Heartfield.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), the Dean; 3 E, Responses (Smith), Dyson in F.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), the Provost; 6 Ch E, Responses (Tomkins), Stanford in G, the Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Set me as a seal (Walton), Canon James Newcome; 11.30 Ch M, Responses (Clucas), Te Deum (Howells), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Jackson), Lord, how long wilt thou be angry? (Purcell); 6.30 ES, Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev E Knapp-Fisher; 11 S Euch, Mass for Four Voices (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Archer), Ven Hugh Glaisyer; 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: M, Williams in G, Canon Jeffrey; S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), the Archdeacon; E, Purcell in B, For lo I raise up (Stanford).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Stanford in C & F; I will arise (Parker), the Archdeacon; 5 E, O praise the Lord (Batten); Responses (Reading).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C, Canon M Perry; 11.15 HC, Missa brevis in B flat (Mozart), the Dean; 3.30 E, the Second Service (Gibbons), Praise our Lord, all ye Gentiles (Byrd).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, I will sing unto the Lord (Amner), the Lord Bishop; 3.45 E, Second Service (Gibbons), See, see the word is incarnate (Gibbons).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, O Come ye servants of the Lord (Tye), the Dean; 11.15 M; Haec est Dies (Handl); 3 E Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn); 4.30 Hospiscare Service; 6.30 ES, The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert).

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Little organ mass (Haydn), Canon N Chatfield; 12.15 HC; 3 E, To thee O Lord (Rachmaninov), My beloved spake (Sanders).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Canon J Schofield; 11.15 M, Alleluia, I heard a voice (Weelkes), Rev Prof D Martin; 6.30 E, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton).

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Lead me Lord (Wesley), St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), The Archdeacon; 11.30 M, Stanford in A, Postlude in D minor (Stanford).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, Awaken us O Lord (Takeda), Canon J Sinclair

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messe brevis (Leighton), Te Deum in F (Ireland), Bishop of Qu'Appelle, Canada; 3.30 E, Responses (Rose), O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells), Bishop of West Malaysia.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 C, Thou shall come from the East (Larsson), the Dean; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly), Rev R Crossland; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Kelly in C; Arvo Pärt (Beatitudes).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP; 10.30 Civic Service, Canon N Vincent; 3 British Legion Service, Canon N Frayling; 4 HC.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Mass for Four Voices (Byrd), Canon F Dexter; 6 Ch E, Responses (Rose), Had gladdening light (Wood).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, I sat down under the shadow (Bairstow), Canon R Hanmer; 6 E, Canon J Davies.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Te Deum in B flat (Harris); 10.30 Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Mathias); 3.30 E, Stanford in B flat, Hymn to St Cecilia (Howells), Vicar of St Paul's, Bedford.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Canon M Glanville-Smith; 11 M, Crown Imperial (Walton), Sumsion in G; 3.00 Ch Euch, Sabat Mater (Pergolesi), The Bishop; 5.30 E, Ireland in F, O thou the central orb (Wood), Canon Jeff King.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Radcliffe), Bishop of Tonbridge; 3.15 E, Purcell in E minor, Regina Coeli (Mozart)

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Mozart in B flat, Prof D Bellamy; 11.45 M, Responses (Leighton), Come, Holy Ghost (Attwood), Canon J Osborne.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Spauermesse, Captain A Turner; 6.30 E, Responses (Leighton), Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon G Taylor.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, the Provost; 11 Ch Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), the Provost; 3 Ch E, second service (Gibbons), Canon R White.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 C, Archdeacon of Newark; 11 Queen's Birthday Service, Excelsis Deo (Mozart), the Bishop; 3.15 E, Blair in B minor, The Twelve (Walton).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Archdeacon of Bodmin; 6 E, Responses (Leighton), Turn back, O man (Holst), the Chancellor.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C, Because the Lord is my shepherd (Walker), Canon R Capper; 11 Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), If ye love me (Tallis), Canon R Gage; 6.30 E, Responses (Bielby), Ireland in F, the Provost.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne), Ven R F Acworth; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Weelkes), O Lord increase our faith (Gibbons); 3 E, The Gloucester Service (Howells), Preb G Ripley.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Boyce in C, Sing joyfully (Byrd), Canon A Harvey; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Canon D Hutt; 3 E, Greater love (Ireland), Rev G Bradley; 6.30 ES, Rev P Chester.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubilate in C (Britten), Sanctus (Alcock), the Dean; 11.30 Euch, Ave verum corpus (Philips); 3.30 E, Magnificat (Stanford), the Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Spatzenmesse (Mozart), Rev J Daly; 11.30 M, Te Deum (Walton); 4 EP; 6 S, the Archbishop.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, He watching over Israel (Mendelssohn), Rev P Harris; 11 M, Responses (Rose), Te Deum in F (Ireland), the Dean; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, Responses (Rutter), I will lift up mine eyes (Walker), the Chaplain.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa brevis in F (Mozart), Ven E Bryan Williams.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 HC; 10 MS, Missa brevis (Walton), the Minister; 11.30 MS, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem, the Minister; 6 Chapel Choir; 8 ES, Rev J Williams.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in G minor (Williams), My soul, there is a country (Parry), The Provost; 3.30 CE, Gloucester Service (Howells), Blessed city (Bairstow).

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Rev R Frazer; 6 Rev D Molyneaux.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45M; 11 S Euch, The Rochester Mass (Ferguson), Ven G Cassidy; 3.15 E, Alcock in D, Great Lord of Lords (Wood), Rev T Gillum; 5 Organ Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 & 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Ireland in C, The Vicar; E & B, Bairstow in D, The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 D Turner; 6.30 Rev R Bewes.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa exultate deo (Cosset), Estote fortes in bello (Vittoria).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 11 M, O thou the central orb (Wood), Rev D Bean; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Mr J Watherston.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM,

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC, N Cowgill; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 HC, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev Paul Schmiege; 7 V, Suite III in D (Bach), Rev P Schmiege.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa simile est regnum caelorum (Victoria), The Rector; 6.30 E, Great Service (Parry), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch Euch, Stanford in C, Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Responses (Byrd), Stanford in B flat, Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton), Ave verum corpus (Faure), Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W Alexander Cairns; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Mozart in C, the Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Wils), Ave Maria (Stravinsky), Rev D Lawson; 6 Ch E, O praise God (Whyte).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev D Reeves; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 S, Rev S Olukanmi; 6.30 EP, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Locus iste (Brackner), Rev C Kevill-Davies; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, O thou the central orb (Wood), Rev J Streeting.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa in honorem Sancti Josephi (Peeters), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Rev Roger Holloway.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev M Johnson; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES, Rev C Herbert.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 M, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), M Hislop; 6 E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Rev G Long; 5.30 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart), Archdeacon of Charing Cross; 6 Ch E.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), A R Chidwick.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 Ch C, Ireland in C, O Lord, arise (Weelkes), Prof M McGowan; 6.30 E.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8 HC; 11.15 MP, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), Canon C Hill.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Williams in G, I was glad (Parry); 3.30 E, O Lord, make thy servant, Elizabeth our Queen (Byrd).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Rev R Ballard.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Shephard), Ireland in F, The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, A Hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Rev L Bryan; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Laudate Dominium (Mozart), Rev G Hilliard.

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In a wise man's teaching he will reveal his learning, and his pride will be in the law of the Lord's covenant.
Ecclesiasticus 39 : 8

BIRTHS

ALI - On June 12th 1997 to Inshirah (née Ahmad) and Iftikhar, a daughter, Sana. First grandchild to Drs Rasheed and Bilquis Ahmad.

BURRELL - On June 11th, to Annell and Duff, a son, George William, a brother for Toby.

CONNELLY - On May 29th at Farnborough Hospital, Kent, to Lesley (née Johnson) and James, a handsome son, Seamus Charles Henderson, a brother for Sophia, Alice and Isobel.

COOKE - On May 13th 1997, to Matthew and Freya (Guinness), a brilliant son, Henry (Hal) Arthur.

DANIEL - On June 10th 1997, to Lucy (née Arundell) and Christopher, a daughter, Poppy Laura, a sister for Jack.

HAMILTON - On Tuesday 10th June 1997, to Julia and Ewen, a beautiful daughter, Phoenix Scarlett.

HILTON - On June 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Andrea (née O'Keeffe) and James, a son, Alexander Kaj Walter.

HOLDSWORTH - On 11th June 1997 at St George's, Tooting, to Frances (née West) and Simon, a son, James Arthur George weighing 8lbs 11½oz.

HUGHES - On 22nd May, to Emma (née Greenaway) and Michael, a son, Alexander Robert Alleyne.

BIRTHS

PALENGAT - On 10th June, to Amanda (née Bradbeer) and Richard, a daughter, Lucinda Elizabeth, a sister for Annabel.

PROWSE - Andrea and Gregory are delighted to announce the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Anna on 12th June 1997. She is welcomed by her sister Abigail.

RUSSELL - On 5th June at The Portland Hospital, to Lord and Lady Francis Russell, a son, John Francis, a half-brother for Czarina.

TANABE - On June 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Maki (née Takebayashi) and Nobuyuki, a daughter, Hatsune, the first melody.

TRUMPOLD - On June 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Todd and Paula, a son, Connor William. - Thanks to Mr Charles Wright.

MARRIAGES

GODFREY:HALFPENNY - The marriage took place on May 17th 1997 at St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham, between Christopher Godfrey of Bath and Juliet Halfpenny.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

GATFORD - Kathleen and John (Felpham). Golden Wedding congratulations.

PARKER:JONES - Ken and Freda on Saturday 14th June 1947. Now residing at 58 The Yews, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5EF. Thank God for fifty years of truly happy marriage - the best thing this side of heaven. Blest with five children and seven grandchildren.

DEATHS

BOARD - On June 12th, peacefully in The Royal Marsden Hospital after a long illness bravely borne, Marian, beloved wife and soul mate of Patrick. Funeral Service on Tuesday June 17th at Mortlake Crematorium at 10.30 am. No flowers by request but donations instead for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund or the Bristol Cancer Clinic may be sent to J.H. Kenyon Ltd., 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8 6LA, tel: (0171) 937-0757.

BREITENBACH - June 12th 1997 Hans of Knaresborough.

DEATHS

BRASNETT - The Reverend Canon Leslie Stanley on 11th June 1997 peacefully aged 100 at The Cranford Nursing Home, Exmouth. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth, on Thursday 19th June at 10.30am, followed by interment at St John's, Winsford, Cheshire, on Friday 20th June at 9.45 am. Donations in lieu of flowers to The National Childrens Home c/o Crews & Son, Tower Street, Exmouth EX8 1NT.

CARDI - Tamara (née Nuttall) the most beloved wife of Lorenzo, loving mother of Tommaso, tragically in Rome on 26th May 1997. Loved Uniquely Forever. Ave atque Vale. London September Memorial Service to be announced shortly.

CHADD - Col (Rtd) George V.N. OBE TD JP DL. High Steward of Southwold peacefully on 12th June 1997 in his 90th year, beloved husband of Margaret loving father and grandfather. Private family funeral. Thanksgiving Service at St Edmunds Church, Southwold on Monday 7th July at 13.45. Donations if desired to Waveney & North Suffolk CRUSE c/o Woolnoughs Funeral Directors, Holton Road, Halesworth, Suffolk. Tel: 01986 872204.

CHATER - Leslie Vernon, aged 83, devoted husband of Binkie, died on June 10th 1997 in Mexico.

DRISCOLL - James William Horne, on June 4th 1997, his 87th birthday, very suddenly in Romsey Abbey. Beloved husband of the late Florence, and dearly loved father of Judith and son-in-law Antony; much loved and devoted grandfather of William and Thomas. Funeral at Holy Trinity Millbrook Southampton on June 24th at 2.15 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers, but donations by request to Hampshire Association for the Deaf, c/o Beavis and Sons, Vincent Street, Southampton SO1 5PB.

HILL - On 9th June peacefully after a short illness, at home in Wellingborough. Stanley G. Hill aged 82 years. Beloved Husband of Lena and loving Father of Roger and Peter. Formerly the Superintendent and Chief Administrator of Northampton General Hospital. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Northampton on Friday 20th June at 3.15 pm followed by cremation. Cut flowers only please, to be used for the benefit of patients at Northampton General Hospital, may be sent if desired to B Hollowell & Son Funeral Directors, 148 Beech Avenue, Northampton. Tel: (01604) 79 22 22.

JOHNSTON - Jill (née Maxwell) died peacefully in her sleep on Friday 13th June 1997. Funeral Service will take place at Lodsworth on Wednesday 18th June at 2.30pm. No flowers by request. Donations, if desired, to Macmillan Cancer Relief.

MARTIN - Graham John Solicitor with Crown Prosecution Service. Died in his sleep Monday June 9th aged 48. A loving generous husband, father and friend to wife Margaret and daughter Stephanie who will also be missed by all his many friends and colleagues. Funeral Service to take place at West Herts Crematorium on Monday 16th June at 1.00pm. Flowers to Phillips Funeral Services, St Albans (01727) 851006. Donations in his memory for RAF Benevolent Fund.

MILLER - Peter Francis Nigel 1924-1997, peacefully at home on June 12th with his family after a short illness borne with great dignity and courage. Dearly loved father of Charlotte, Caroline and Robert, Sheila his friend and former wife and adored grandfather of Robert, Sophie, Jamie and Camilla, Tom, Lucy, Charlie and Georgina. Private family burial at sea. A Memorial Service will be held at St Andrew's, Letheringsett, on Tuesday July 1st at 12 noon.

NELSON - Richard (Dick) A. CMG, LVO. Much loved husband of Olive and father of Paul, died suddenly on 6th June. Tel/fax: 01296 714837.

NUTTALL - See Cardi.

POOD - Alfred Arthur died suddenly at home on 6th June, aged 76. Much loved, husband of Lily, devoted father to Roger and Susan and grandfather of Oliver. Funeral Service 2 pm Wednesday 18th June at North East Surrey Crematorium, Morden, Surrey. Enquiries to F/D W.A. Truelove, (0181) 647-1032.

PROBERT - Major Yayr Roger Hilton Probert MC on Friday 13th June aged 100, peacefully at home in Portugal. Beloved husband of Ruth and much loved grandfather of Philip. Funeral private. Thanksgiving Service at Penallt Old Church, Monmouth, to be announced later.

SHILLINGFORD - On June 12th, Doris Margaret (Jill) at home. A very wonderful, loving and caring wife and mother to Jack, Michael, Ann and James and dearest grandmother to six. Beloved sister of Pat and friend to many. Family funeral and flowers. Donations if desired to the Princess Alice Hospice, Esher - c/o W. Bryder, Tillington, Petworth, Sussex.

THOMPSON - Owen Edgar died suddenly on June 11th 1997. Dearly loved husband of Barbara, father of Mark and Karen and cherished by all who knew him. Funeral Service on Wednesday June 18th at Yeovil Crematorium at 11 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to The Gurkha Welfare Trust c/o G.H. Cook & Son, F/D, 8/11 Bond Street, Yeovil, BA20 1PE.

TURNER - Janet Stewart Turner (née Macmillan), wife of Dr J.D.G. Turner of Brighouse, W. Yorks., died in Edinburgh on 9th June 1997. Was much loved and will be much missed by her three children. Celtic Remembrance Service Bishopstone Church, Wiltshire, 1 pm, 18th June 1997.

WARWICK - Laura Emma Julia (Mama). Much loved wife of the late Herbert, mother of May and of the late Norman. Grandmother of Suzanne, Ben and Stephen. Great-grandmother of Christina, David, Alexander, Lindsay, Annabella and Michael. Died peacefully on 10th June 1997.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

SCOTT-ORDISH - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lesley Scott-Ordish, Founder of PRO Dogs and PAT Dogs (Pets As Therapy), will take place on Tuesday 24th June at St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1 at 2.30 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A FOURTH WAY SCHOOL in the living tradition of Gurdjieff & Ouspensky. 0181 347 5353.

THOMAS KYDD Do you remember the Spanish tragedy performed at The Mercury Theatre London, Oxford Playhouse, Citizen's Theatre, Glasgow? Please contact R A Owens, Shakespeare Institute 01789 293138

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BIRTHDAYS

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JILL NEVILLE

Jill Neville, author, died from cancer in London on June 11 aged 65. She was born in Sydney on May 29, 1932.

Jill Neville was the acknowledged beauty and outstanding personality among the first wave of talented young Australians who lit up the London scene in the drab years immediately after the Second World War. All her life, she radiated the qualities Londoners have come to think of as refreshingly Australian: energy, self-reliance, infectious friendliness, an unquenchable, innocent curiosity about what might be on the other side of the big world.

The unromantic British had (and still have) trouble understanding why Jill and her friends ever left sunny, overfed Australia for shabby, war-battered London. When she arrived in 1951, rationing was still in force and her parents sent her food parcels. Why had Jill and her clever compatriots exchanged golden days on Bondi Beach for, as she wrote home, "shivering with a penny in the gas in the Earls Court Road", when migrants in thousands were streaming the other way? And, who was she?

Tall, with hazel eyes and long auburn hair, Jill Neville would have been a striking figure anywhere. In postwar London she was a knockout. The English class system had staged its depressing comeback, but Jill's accent, which she never lost, defied the snobs' probe. School? It was academically distinguished North Sydney Girls' High, but no one here was to know that. What did her father do? He was a Regular Army officer, later a publisher; but he might have been a sheep shearer as far as anyone could tell (or she cared.) Within days of arriving Jill had a job typing at the BBC (and was soon a journalist there). She found lodging on a houseboat at Chelsea Reach, low rent and originality compensating for seagoing-style sanitation and the not over-fragrant Thames alongside. Within weeks Jill was running London's first, and perhaps only floating literary salon, the deep talk pausing only as the boat sucked on and off the ooze with the tide.

"Jill's boat" became young Australia's entry to the London kaleidoscope. The Brisbane poet Peter Porter, whose indispensable muse she long was, the comedian Barry Humphries, the musician David Lumsdaine, painters Brett Whiteley and Francis Lymburner, journalists Philip Knightley and Murray Sayle rubbed shoulders and ideas with a Marxist revolutionary from Zanzibar, a West Indian jazz singer, a Royal Navy Russian expert, a US war correspondent, an Italian anarchist, a chess grandmaster, a down-at-heel lord from three boats away and many, many more — all captivated, and half of them in love with their scintillating hostess. One liquid evening two of her suitors came to blows, and both fell in the Thames. Jill dived overboard and, in the style approved by the New South Wales Life Saving Association, dragged both non-swimmers ashore. The novel she was already sketching, *Fall Girl* (1966), tells the story of a young woman who is constantly let down by weak, deceitful, inadequate men — if only more feminist tracts could be as wry and entertaining!

Meanwhile, Jill had moved on from the BBC to the world of advertising at which, like so many budding novelists, she was very good, and said she despised. Her ever-widening circle of colleagues, friends and admirers soon included the future novelists Fay Weldon and Salman Rushdie, the short story writer William Trevor, and the cruelly love-crossed (by the poet George Barker) Elizabeth Smart, author of the haunting *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept*. As the Fifties became the Sixties, this galaxy-to-be fought it out, slogan by slogan, over dog food, breakfast eggs, cigarettes, milk, and (one of Jill's specialities) outboard motors. When will some alert publisher illuminate the economics of our literature by anthologising these rent-paying, book-financing masterpieces?

Jill married three times. Her first husband, the South African writer Peter Duval Smith, with whom she had a daughter, Judy, died mysteriously in Saigon in 1967, while on assignment for the BBC. She then moved to Paris and was caught up in *les événements*, the near-revolution of 1968, out of which came *The Love Germ*, her witty reworking of the cycle of Arthur Schnitzler's stories that became *La Ronde* — except that the fiery young militants in her book pass a mild sexually-transmitted disease, as well as political passion, from comrade to comrade locked in the struggle (a vivid sense of humour stopped Jill ever taking any political dogma seriously).

In Paris she met and married David Leitch, correspondent of the London *Sunday Times* and himself a writer of note, and with him had a son, Luke (now a university student). The family then made a long-planned return to Australia where, despite (or perhaps because of) lurid reports of her London adventures ("Aussies here let their hair down" reported the Sydney *Sun-Herald*, "they do things that shock their mothers") she wrote, on grants from the Commonwealth Literary Fund, two more novels, well received in both countries: *Last Ferry to Manly* and *Swimming the Channel Vol 1*. The fame of the Nevilles grew when her young brother Richard followed her to London, an instant celebrity as Jill's sibling, bringing his Sydney magazine *Oz* with him. He was acquitted on appeal after a farcical Old Bailey trial for obscenity, and returned to Sydney, hero of one of the seminal *causes célèbres* of the restless Sixties.

Jill, meanwhile, was moving in the other direction. Her second marriage ending in divorce, she returned to London and took up her life as novelist, reviewer, broadcaster and, above all, the centre of a by now gigantic circle of literary friends. This extended to a new field, science, when she met and married the South African-born geneticist and television pundit Professor Lewis Wolpert, with whom she enjoyed a blissfully creative partnership up to the day of her death. Why did she return to Britain, and for that matter, why did she and so many of her generation come in the first place, and; once here, stay on?

The answer, made plain in her seven novels and innumerable reviews and conversations, is London itself. She came originally seeking freedom, out of curiosity (the war isolated Australia for most of her adolescence) and to escape the smug respectability that cocooned Australia in Sir Robert Menzies's interminable prime ministership (1949-67). She stayed because she fell in love. Of all the cities spawned by the Imperial adventure, London and Sydney have always had the fondest family resemblance, and not simply because both have Hyde Park, King's Cross, Paddington, Bayswater, Kensington and the rest (Sydney children play Monopoly on a London board, and know just what a hotel in Mayfair is worth). Her Australian accent descended from 18th-century Cockney, the lingua franca of sailors, pickpockets and British regiments, and so does the Sydney attitude: direct, down-to-earth, we're-all-in-this-togethermatey, with a soaring romanticism well hidden inside. Jill and her friends were not especially Anglophile, or interested in the Empire. The magic keys of classlessness, friendliness and fascination with the endless variety of humankind gave her and her companions a foretaste of the future, what much of London has now, and Sydney itself may soon, become — a crossroads of the world. What were rain and bad plumbing, against that?

Her second city returned Jill's affection. Her 1995 novel, *The Day We Cut the Lavender*, was well received. The same year she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, choosing — the first novelist in memory to do so — not Dickens's pen, but Byron's romantic plume to sign in with. She became a popular, and, knowing just about everyone in the London cultural world, well-informed presenter of BBC book programmes. She planned another stay in search of more material in Sydney. Her play, *Astonished Always*, about the poet Robert Graves's inspiration and tyrant Laura Riding — another bright beauty cast among lustful littérateurs — ran successfully in Oxford and London, possibly opening a new career. Her books, sharp social observation rather than fashionable fantasy, are holding their interest. She was well on the way to becoming a literary lioness, but lymphoma, mercifully quick, intervened. Few writers, men or women, on either side of the world, will be more widely mourned.

Jill Neville is survived by her husband Lewis Wolpert, sister Josephine and brother Richard, her children Judy and Luke, and countless friends.

GENERAL FRANCOIS BINOCHE

François Binoche, French general, died in Paris on May 18 aged 86. He was born in the same city on March 23, 1911.

FRANÇOIS BINOCHE was one of France's bravest and most outspoken soldiers. His style was the very opposite of the politically correct, and his words often caused him almost as much trouble as the enemy on the battlefield.

His pro-Gaullist declarations led to his arrest by the wartime Vichy regime, and he had serious problems with the High Command in Indo-China in 1950, when he castigated the incompetence of generals after following the débâcle of Cao Bang. . He was arrested later for opposing the quartet of generals under General Raoul Salan who seized power in Algiers in 1961 in defiance of General de Gaulle.

Then, in retirement, he criticised the Germans in a highly "incorrect" manner. But his impressive war record; chestful of medals and his lifelong loyalty to the Gaullist cause saved him each time there was an "affaire Binoche", as the French newspapers labelled these incidents.

François Binoche, son of a Parisian industrialist, joined the Foreign Legion as a sub-lieutenant after graduating from the Saint-Cyr military academy in 1932. He was a captain in 1940 in Morocco when his contacts with the Free French led to his arrest and imprisonment by Vichy. The charge was "working with an enemy power" (namely Britain).

He was acquitted, and immediately joined the Maquis. Commander of the Ardèche region in the Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur, he engaged German forces at the time of the Normandy landings and lost the use of an arm. De Gaulle made him a Compagnon de la Libération in 1945, the highest Gaullist award.

After a postwar spell at the Defence Ministry, he rejoined the Foreign Legion in Morocco, and later served in Indo-China, where he commanded the Fifth Infantry Regiment as the war there began to turn against the French. After Cao Bang, a defeat which cost the French Army thousands of dead and prisoners, he demanded the resignation of a general who had come to inspect his regiment. Following Dien Bien Phu, the final battle, he served as adviser to the prime minister, Pierre Mendès-France, whom he had met during the war and who closed the Indo-China chapter of French history at the Geneva conference.

The next chapter was Algeria, where Binoche was a colonel. He was arrested by Salan and the other generals, escaped and organised resistance to the organisers of the putsch. Promoted to general, he later served in the military court in France which sentenced the rebel officers.

In 1964 he was named military governor of Berlin and commander of the French sector and went on to command the 44th Division, stationed in Toulouse. He asked for early retirement in 1967.

Retirement, however, did not prevent another "affaire Binoche" for in 1975 he wrote in the Gaullist publication *L'Appel* that Germany's attitude to France had "remained unchanged since Bismarck", referring to "the German danger to our defences". There was uproar, with the Government accusing him of seriously harming Franco-German relations. Binoche found himself "fully retired" by Yvon Bourges, then Defence Minister.

Binoche became an active dissident Gaullist and was supported by those similarly suspicious of the Germans. He was elected honorary president of a splinter movement, Union des Gaullistes de Progrès, and a city councillor in Nice. There, he later lost to Jacques Médecin, the Mayor (attacked by Graham Greene) who was subsequently imprisoned for fraud and now lives in South America. Binoche supported François Mitterrand in 1981 and two years later was reinstated as a reserve officer by Mitterrand's Defence Minister, Charles Hernu.

Binoche married, in 1939, Madeleine Guédra. They had two sons.

HIS HONOUR RICHARD FREEMAN

His Honour Richard ("Dick") Freeman, County Court and then Circuit Judge, 1968-83, died on May 16 aged 86. He was born on October 10, 1910.

NOTHING but the presence of Gerald Gardiner as Lord Chancellor could have brought "Dick" Freeman even to the county court Bench. A member of the Communist Party until well after the 1956 Hungarian uprising, he had the kind of political "form" that would have turned any Conservative occupant of the Woolsack puce. But Dick Freeman proved a great success as a judge and Lord Gardiner's elevation of him to serve on the Bench was abundantly justified.

Richard Gavin Freeman was the son of a successful Marylebone doctor and enjoyed a conventional middle-class education — going first to Charterhouse and then to Hertford College, Oxford. Both at school and university he distinguished himself more as a sportsman than a scholar — though politics, especially once he got to Oxford (where he became a member of the October Club, named after the October 1917 Russian Revolution) also took up a good deal of his time.

One of an idealistic generation that tended to be a little starry-eyed about Soviet Communism, he first visited the Soviet Union in the year he came down from Oxford — even getting to drive a tractor on a showpiece communal farm outside Moscow. (It is only fair to say that in that year, 1931, even Malcolm Muggeridge was still an admirer of Stalin's rule and so were even more illustrious figures such as Nancy Astor and George Bernard Shaw.)

Freeman, however, took things rather further by immediately on his return visiting the King Street headquarters of the Communist Party of Great Britain and applying to join. Fortunately, it was not suggested that he should be anything but an open, aboveground member and for most of the 1930s he was much concerned with the international student movement and various peace campaigns.

He did not, though, shirk his obligations in opposing Oswald Mosley and the British Union of Fascists — loyally turning up to try to break up their rallies and rarely shrinking from getting thrown out (and beaten up) in the process. He showed, though, perhaps a little of his future judicial prudence in seeing to it that at Mosley's 1936 Wembley rally the group of protesters he was responsible for should have more than its fair complement of women. The hope, to which he freely confessed, was that this would dissuade the stewards from taking too savage reprisals on the group for their interruptions.

That same year he thought seriously about going to fight in the Spanish Civil War. The family legend has it that there was a serious disagreement between him and the Cambridge poet John Cornford as to which of them should go. It was resolved by a toss of a coin in a pub in favour of Cornford, who was killed very shortly afterwards once he had arrived at the front.

Freeman himself volunteered for the British Army in 1938 at the time of the Munich agreement. He did well, passing out top and winning the sword of honour at his officer cadet school. But his political past then caught up with him and he was discharged as a political subversive. That, however, did not prevent his joining up again in 1939 — in defiance of the Nazi-Soviet pact — and ending the war as a major in the Royal Artillery.

In fact, once hostilities were over, he went higher. He was made responsible for running the Army Bureau of Current Affairs classes throughout northern Italy — thus perhaps validating some Conservative suspicions of this branch of military activity. He retired from the Army in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

It was not until 1947 that he was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn. His practice was largely in industrial compensation cases but he also did criminal work, appearing for one of the accused in the Great Train Robbbers' trial of 1964. It was while this trial was going on that he was passed a note by his client from the dock. The note contained a tip for a horse that was running that afternoon, and the horse duly won. Freeman put some, though probably not enough, money on it and later, after the court had risen, went down to the cells to thank his client and to ask him if he had any more tips. His reply he never forgot — "Yes, I have some tips but no more *certainties*".

Through most of his time at the Bar, Freeman combined his practice with serving as the libel lawyer for the former Co-operative Sunday newspaper, *Reynolds News* (later the *Sunday Citizen*). He was a model newspaper lawyer, not so much inhibiting journalists from what they wished towrite as finding ways and means in which what they wanted to say could be safely said. His own political views were never disguised — he was a prominent member of the British Peace Committee for many years — but at the same time they were never imposed on others he met professionally (many of whom may even have been misled by his passionate love of cricket and football into regarding him as "one of us").

His popularity at the Bar was certainly attested by his appointment as deputy chairman of Warwick Quarter Sessions in 1963. Five years later he was named to the county court Bench, where he spent most of the next 15 years presiding over the Ilford County Court. Kindly, patient and, above all, unalarming, he enjoyed most perhaps the days when he heard adoption cases.

He always made a point of telling the children who came before him that they were very lucky to be adopted: they would now have two birthdays — one the day they were actually born and the other the anniversary of their adoption.

By now his days in the Communist Party were well behind him. His last political activity was to distribute leaflets for the new Labour Party at last month's general election. He was elated to learn of the Blair landslide victory just a fortnight before he died.

Dick Freeman was twice married — first to Marjorie Pear in 1937 and then to Winifred ("Freddie") Bell in 1961. They both survive him, together with the one son and two daughters of his first marriage.

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ON THIS DAY

June 13, 1878

The congress limited Russian naval expansion and obtained Turkish recognition of the independence of the Balkan states. The Times printed the text of the treaty before it was signed in Berlin, thanks to the ingenuity of our Chief Correspondent Henri de Blowitz.

(By Telegraph.)
(From our Correspondents.)

OPENING OF THE CONGRESS

BERLIN, June 13.

This afternoon, at two o'clock, the first sitting of the Congress was opened by Prince Bismarck in the grand hall of his new official residence.

The reception given to Lord Beaconsfield, on the one hand, and Prince Gortchakoff, on the other, has offered a significant contrast. Lord Beaconsfield's journey from the German frontier to Berlin was a veritable triumph. Curiosity and enthusiasm everywhere prevailed, and people thronged to the station to see him. At Cologne, where there was two hours' notice of his approach, the station was invaded by Germans, who greeted him with hurrahs. On re-entering the saloon, Lord Beaconsfield found it decorated with flowers; and when on starting he expressed his thanks for this attention, and sent a rose to the lady who superintended these arrangements, fresh cheers greeted this act of gallantry. At Berlin there was the same eagerness; and if on passing before the Kaiserhof Hotel you see a crowd, you may be certain they are waiting to see Lord Beaconsfield. Nothing of the kind, however, for Prince Gortchakoff, and he knows it. His arrival has made no stir and has not disturbed the usual solitude prevailing around the Russian Embassy. Here, then, is the very danger which justly engages the attention of all the prominent members of the Congress. The simultaneous presence of Lord Beaconsfield and Prince Gortchakoff is one, and perhaps the principal, cause which may derange all calculations. The latter is in a state of health which makes him nervous. He feels he is nearing his end, and he would not like to sink below the horizon without leaving behind him a ray of glory. Lord Beaconsfield, younger and in better preservation than the Prince, is at the pinnacle of his career and aspires to a crowning triumph. Between the two men any question may become a personal one, and reason will then no longer suffice to solve it. The great and only chance of averting this danger lies with Prince Bismarck, who will put aside whatever might lead to a possible conflict. He will, perhaps induce the two champions to co-operate towards securing general peace, and he is believed to be intent on effacing their dangerous rivalry.

Pending the opening of the combat, a perfect consternation prevails among the special correspondents at the announcement that Prince Bismarck intended to ask the members of the Congress to swear to divulge nothing. I do not believe in this pretended oath of absolute secrecy. The Press has now become an authorized medium of communication between the public and those who discuss the destinies of the world, and no one can fail to recognize its rights and its duties. It may suit the purposes of certain representatives of absolute power to debate the fate of their countries without consulting it, but it would never enter the mind of the Governors of a free nation to withdraw themselves from the control of public opinion and settle questions of great gravity without having been able to take account of the views of their "fellow citizens" and the opinions of their newspapers.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Bravery honours for school workers

■ Five school workers who protected children coming under attack are honoured for their courage today — two of them posthumously. Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who shielded children from a man with a machete, is awarded the George Medal. Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death, is awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal.................... **Pages 1, 8, 9**

Half of state schools 'underperform'

■ Half of all state schools are underperforming, according to Stephen Byers, the minister responsible for school standards. The revelation came as it emerged that teachers are to be be held personally responsible for their pupils' results, as part of a new strategy to tackle the mediocre majority........................... **Page 1**

Police drug tests

Guidelines have been sent by the Association of Police Officers to all 43 forces in England and Wales for the introduction of random drug testing of officers....... **Page 1**

Co-op alcopop ban

The Co-op dealt a blow to the drinks industry when it banned the sale of alcopops in 1,200 stores.................................. **Page 2**

Arsonist jailed

A security guard was jailed after a firefighter died when he started a fire out of boredom............ **Page 3**

Reich or wrong

Two leading historians of Nazi Germany are disputing whether a drawing of Adolf Hitler is a rare self-portrait......................... **Page 6**

Low note struck

Lord Lloyd-Webber, the composer with the so-called Midas touch, has forecast losses of up to £10 million for his Really Useful Group.................................. **Page 7**

Dark celebration

Followers of Count Dracula gathered in Whitby to mark a disputed centenary of Bram Stoker's horror story.................................. **Page 12**

Agents held

Four Palestinian security agents have been charged by an Israeli court in connection with the recent murders of land agents ... **Page 14**

Somali torture claim

New evidence has emerged of widespread torture of Somali civilians by Italian soldiers during the peacekeeping operation in Somalia four years ago.............. **Page 15**

Pol Pot flees

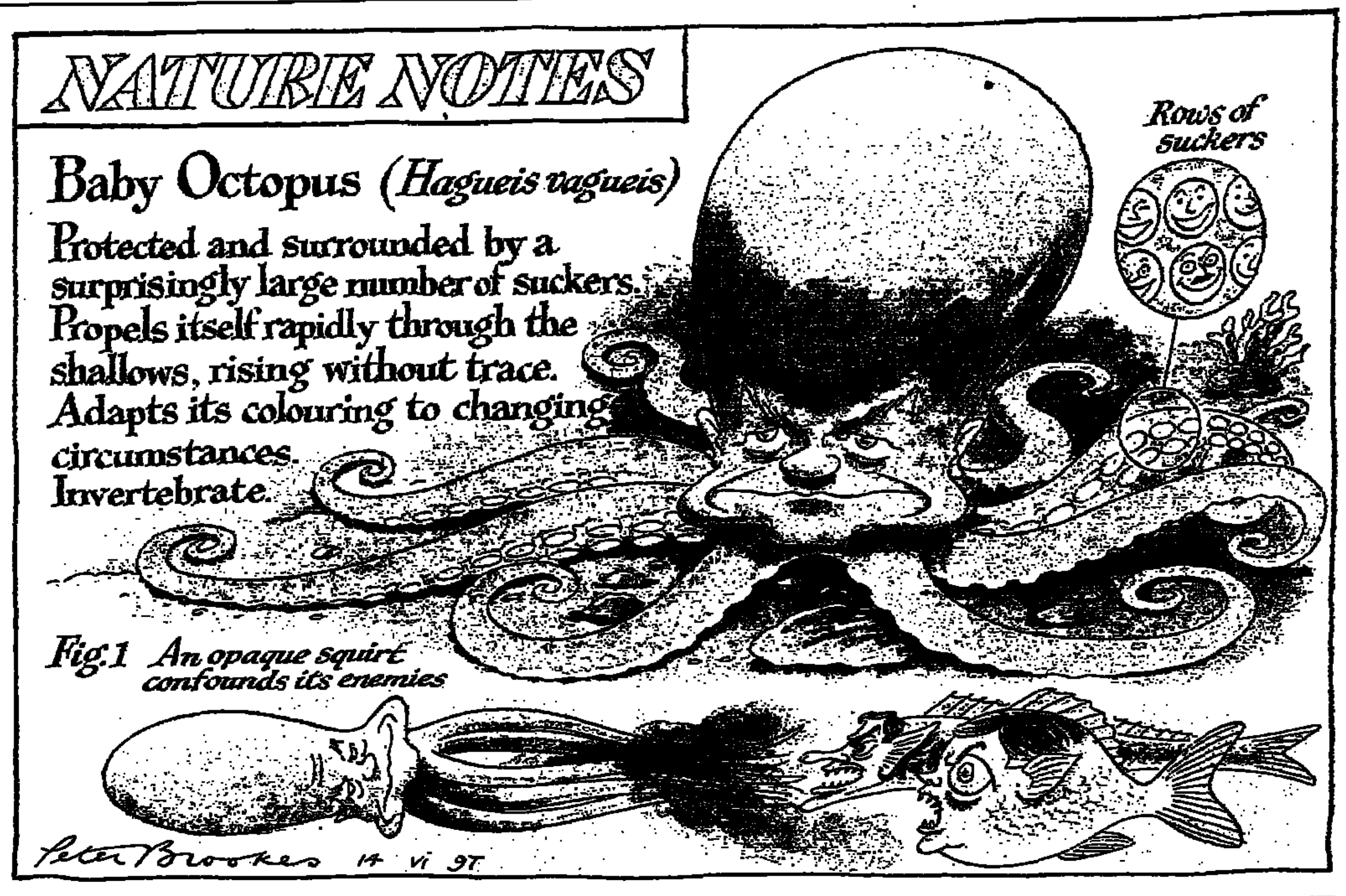
Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader, has had his defence chief and 11 members of the man's family murdered and fled north........ **Page 16**

Handover support

Australia is to attend the swearing-in ceremony for the Hong Kong legislature................ **Page 17**

Sumo grapples with sexual equality

■ When Japan's national sport of sumo was first opened up to women, Rie Tsuihiji, 19, was warned not to set foot in the hallowed *dohyo* (clay ring) used by male wrestlers. Instead, rings made of synthetic matting would be provided...... **Page 17**


NATURE NOTES
Baby Octopus (Hagueis vagueis)
Protected and surrounded by a surprisingly large number of suckers.
Propels itself rapidly through the shallows, rising without trace.
Adapts its colouring to changing circumstances.
Invertebrate.
Rows of suckers
Fig.1 An opaque squirt confounds its enemies
Peter Brookes 14 vi 97

OPINION

In Amsterdam: Mr Blair's understanding that language matters had much to do with *his* election victory. It could be the key to a successful strategy for Europe.. **Page 21**

Healthy figures: Rather than forcing patients who use the NHS to pay, why not tempt more people to pay for their care outside? .... **Page 21**

LETTERS

Tories invited to listen and learn; artists review critics' performance; Fitzwilliam Museum; Lord Chancellor on press freedom ..... **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The shrapnel that peppered British Airways' new livery last week was spectacular........ **Page 20**

Roger Scruton: The thought seems not to have occurred to those who take charge of our political education that scepticism towards the institutions of the European Union might stem from a love of Europe..................... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

Jill Neville, author; **His Honour Richard Freeman,** judge; **François Binoche,** French general...................... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Mirror deal: Morgan Stanley has paid around £15 million to settle the final legal action brought by the Mirror Group pension scheme........ **Page 25**

Energy bid doubts: The £5.9 billion PacifiCorp bid for The Energy Group was met with strong scepticism in the City .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FTSE 100 share index rose 25.7 to 4,783.1. On the foreign exchange the pound rose .08 cents to $1.6350 and 2.45 pfennigs to DM2.8415. The pound index rose to 100.3 from 99.6 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Golf: Tom Lehman, Ernie Els and Tiger Woods were pursuing the leader, Colin Montgomerie, when lightning stopped play in the US Open .... **Page 48**

Tennis: Pete Sampras was knocked out of the Stella Artois tournament by Jonas Bjorkman, who will meet Greg Rusedski in the semifinals .... **Page 48**

Birthday honours: Sir Colin Cowdrey, the former England cricket captain, has been made a life peer. Michael Atherton, the current captain, is appointed OBE..... **Page 48**

ARTS

The grey-beard loon: Two hundred years after Coleridge wrote it, Richard Morrison pays tribute to *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*............... **Page 19**

Cold reception: Benedict Nightingale finds little to admire in a production of *All's Well That Ends Well* that "seems more concerned to embrace silliness than explore characters or ideas" .... **Page 19**

CAR 97

The Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost turns 90

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Gross profit: America keeps eating......... **Page 14**
Mystery man: In search of Pynchon.............. **Page 26**
Bryn Terfel: .... **Page 70**

Weekend

Moriarty: Ben Macintyre turns detective....... **Page 1**

Fashion: Monochrome swimsuits............... **Page 3**
Virtual lawns: On-screen garden design .... **Page 5**

10 15

Unmasked: George Clooney as Batman .... **Page 6**
Posh: Meet the north London trio............ **Page 8**

directory

Door policy: .... **Page 3**
Critics' choice: What's on .... **Page 15**
Television and radio: Seven day guide........ **Page 23**

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A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

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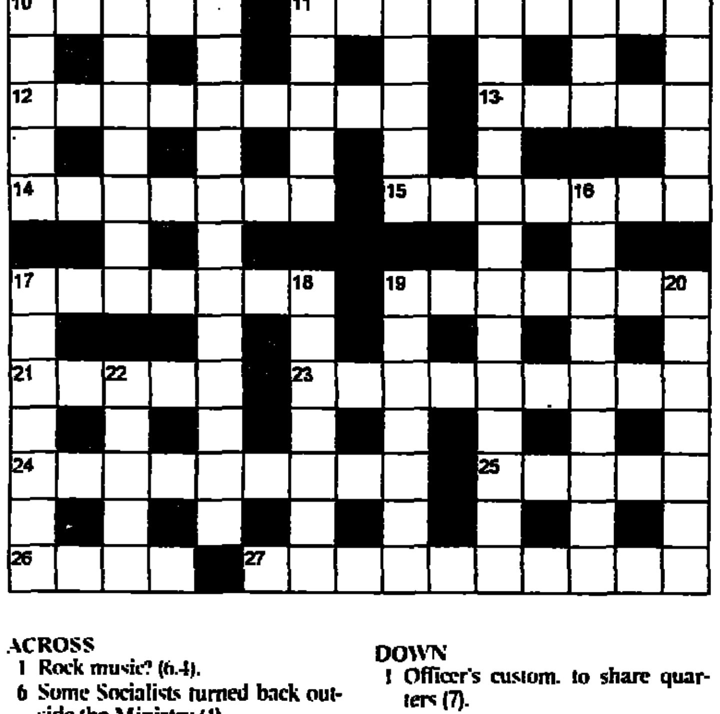
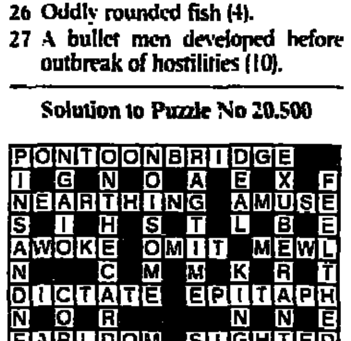


ACROSS
- 1 Rock music? (6,4).
- 6 Some Socialists turned back outside the Ministry (4).
- 10 Central characters in schools that create a fuss (3-2).
- 11 Maine's not so unusual a state (9).
- 12 Beer will spill out of old copper jug (9).
- 13 Rex — alias protecting female novelist (5).
- 14 Animal put in the yard, initially, not stable (7).
- 15 Petition, thus, not against the law (7).
- 17 Rural company appearing in club I organised (7).
- 19 Male youth (7).
- 21 Even if reversed, it makes no difference (5).
- 23 Nonentity has narrow escape, put on the spot (9).
- 24 Poems by 19 *ac*, for example (9).
- 25 Give top mark — room for improvement after that? (5).
- 26 Oddly rounded fish (4).
- 27 A bullet men developed before outbreak of hostilities (10).

DOWN
- 1 Officer's custom, to share quarters (7).
- 2 Combative GIs getting involved with action (9).
- 3 Bequeath, properly, a pound to someone? Don't interfere (5,4,5).
- 4 Fine outline we hear (7).
- 5 Puzzle that's nothing if not negative (7).
- 7 A game female is not getting engaged (5).
- 8 Pretender drops one, making a lot of noise (7).
- 9 Philosopher with old-fashioned views giving address in W1 (8,6).
- 16 Hang up, having narrowly averted disaster (5,4).
- 17 Piece of lab equipment giving inventor a shock (4-3).
- 18 Do better upriver for fish (7).
- 19 Poison I place inside crate (7).
- 20 Rank, in this country, held by distinguished leader on the way up (7).
- 22 Spectacular sixes by England's tail-ender (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,500



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PONTOONBRIDGE  
I G N O A E X F
NEARTHING AMUSE
S I H S T L B E
AWOKE OMIT MEWL
N   C M M K R T
DICTATE EPITAPH
N O R     N N E
EARLDOM SIGHTED
E K S O H S   R
DASH ARIA COCOA
L C C E R R H U
EARTH IMPROVING
S E A S E S N H
  WORTHONESSALT
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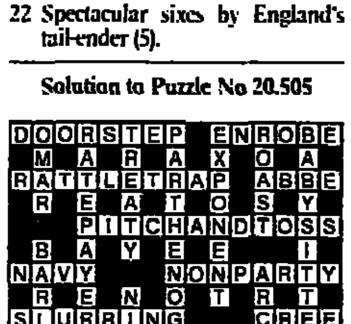
Solution to Puzzle No 20,505



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DOORSTEP ENROBE
 M A R A X O A 
RATTLETRAP ABBE
 R E A T O S Y 
   PITCHANDTOSS
 B A Y E E   I 
NAVY   NONPARTY
 R E N O T R T 
SLURRING   CREE
 E   G E A H R 
HYPOCHONDRIA   
 C V T E N N A 
TOTE CASTINGOFF
 R R A I C E R 
UNSTOP STALLION
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: M D Cook, Cullompton, Devon; R A Adams, Bournemouth; I Whitehouse, Widnes, Cheshire; F M Leach, Kew, Richmond, Surrey; R Farrell, Dartmouth, Devon.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 4.43 am	Sun sets: 9.19 pm
Moon sets 1.38 am	Moon rises 2.13 pm

Full moon June 20

London 9.19 pm to 4.43 am
Bristol 9.29 pm to 4.53 am
Edinburgh 10.30 pm to 4.26 am
Manchester 9.39 pm to 4.39 am
Penzance 9.33 pm to 5.12 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 4.43 am	Sun sets: 9.20 pm
Moon sets 2.01 am	Moon rises 3.17 pm

Full moon June 20

London 9.20 pm to 4.43 am
Bristol 9.29 pm to 4.53 am
Edinburgh 10.31 pm to 4.26 am
Manchester 9.40 pm to 4.39 am
Penzance 9.34 pm to 5.12 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	08.56	6.0	21.14	5.7
Aberdeen	09.43	3.4	21.22	3.3
Avonmouth	01.35	10.0	14.15	9.7
Belfast	06.16	3.0	19.00	2.8
Cardiff	01.21	9.4	14.01	9.1
Devonport	00.09	4.6	12.29	4.4
Dover	06.21	5.2	18.48	5.4
Dublin N Wall	07.13	3.4	19.51	3.3
Falmouth			12.29	4.5
Greenock	07.01	2.9	20.21	2.6
Harwich	06.41	3.2	18.56	3.1
Holyhead	05.37	4.5	18.16	4.3
Hull (Albert D)	01.13	7.0	13.23	7.1
Ilfracombe	00.38	7.1	13.17	6.5
King's Lynn	01.26	4.8	13.35	5.0
Leith	03.56	4.4	22.38	4.4
Liverpool	06.15	7.5	18.56	7.2
Lowestoft	05.15	2.0	16.49	2.1
Margate	07.09	3.9	19.27	3.9
Milford Haven	00.57	5.4	13.36	5.1
Newquay	-	-	12.37	5.2
Oban	00.39	3.0	13.46	2.9
Penzance	-	-	12.13	4.2
Portland	-	-	14.11	1.1
Portsmouth	06.38	3.6	19.20	3.9
Shoreham	06.12	4.6	18.53	4.8
Southampton	05.44	3.7	19.29	3.9
Swansea	01.06	7.4	13.42	7.2
Tees	11.09	4.5	23.51	4.4
Walton-on-N	06.40	3.3	19.00	3.2

All times BST. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Heathrow airport, 23C (73F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 9C (48F); highest rainfall: Loch Glascarnoch, 0.75in; highest sunshine: Swanage, Dorset, 10.4hr.

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Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be cloudy at first, with some patchy rain or drizzle in the South, but will become mainly dry with sunny intervals. Mist and fog in the South will also clear. There will be a fresher feel to the day as winds settle into the northwest.

Rain or drizzle over Northern Scotland, with extensive hill and coastal fog, will become confined to Shetland in the afternoon. Other parts, as well as Northern Ireland, will see sunny intervals developing and perhaps setting off a few light showers. It will be cool, but winds will decrease.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:** cloudy start, patchy light rain. Bright, sunny intervals later. Wind west, becoming northwest, mostly light. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **E England, Central N England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** mostly dry, bright or sunny spells developing. Wind mainly northwest, light or moderate. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Argyll, N Ireland:** bright spells developing, perhaps a few light showers. Wind north or northwest, mainly moderate. Max 17C (63F)

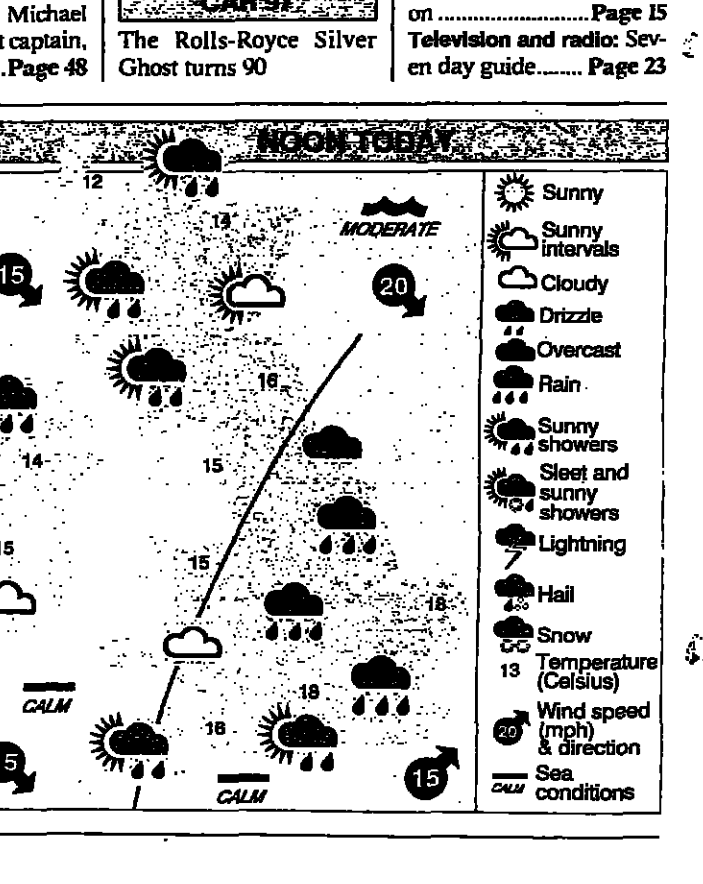
☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney:** cloudy, damp start, brighter with a few showers later. Wind northwest, moderate or fresh, decreasing. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Shetland:** occasional rain or drizzle, extensive hill and coastal fog. Wind variable, settling northwest, moderate or fresh. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook**. bright with some sunshine, but a few showers to the north.

☐ **Pollen:** low in all areas except NW England, S Wales, Midlands, East Anglia, SW England, SE England and Central S England, where it will be moderate (Supplied by the Pollen Research Unit)

NOON TODAY



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

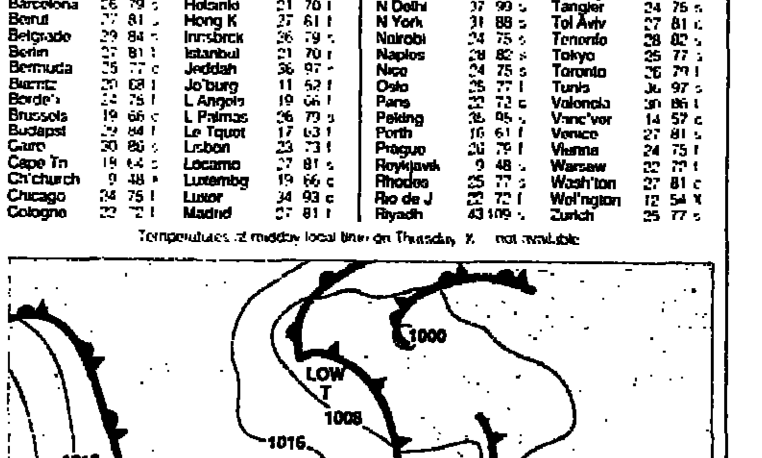
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	3.6	0.01	16	61	c	Littlehmptn	5.6	0.14	18	64	r
Anglesey	-	0.10	13	55	d	London	4.7	0.04	23	73	b
Aspatria	0.3	0.15	16	61	r	Lowestoft	3.4	0.04	18	64	f
Aviemore	-	0.10	12	54	r	Manchester	1.6	0.17	18	64	r
Belfast	0.2	0.11	13	55	r	Margate	6.0	-	22	72	b
Birmingham	4.5	0.01	19	66	s	Minehead	0.5	0.01	17	63	c
Bognor R	6.7	0.05	19	66	s	Morecambe	0.3	0.06	16	61	r
Bournem'th	X					Newcastle	1.4	0.03	17	63	sh
Bristol	2.7	-	19	66	b	Newquay	0.9	-	16	61	c
Buxton	2.0	0.44	16	61	sh	Norwich	4.5	0.06	20	68	f
Cardiff	0.5	0.04	17	63	r	Oxford	X				
Clacton	8.2	0.13	18	64	b	Penzance	X	-	16	61	du
Cleethorpes	4.0	0.01	21	70	b	Poole	8.5	-	21	70	s
Colwyn Bay	1.8	0.01	17	63	c	Prestatyn	X	-	15	59	c
Cromer	4.3	0.09	19	66	f	Ross-o-wye	3.6	-	20	68	s
Dunbar	-	0.17	14	57	r	Ryde	X				
Eastbourne	3.7	0.01	18	64	s	Salcombe	3.1	0.03	17	63	c
Edinburgh	-	0.01	15	59	sh	Sandown	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.42	15	59	sh	Saunton Snd		0.02	15	59	du
Exmouth	4.2	0.01	19	66	s	Scarboro'	5.2	0.03	19	66	b
Falmouth	0.5	-	16	61	s	Shanklin	8.9	0.01	17	63	s
Fishguard	0.4	0.02	13	55	fg	Shrewsbury	X				
Folkestone	7.2	0.01	19	66	f	Skegness	6.9	-	20	68	b
Glasgow		0.01	16	61	c	Southend	4.0	0.20	21	70	sh
Guernsey	1.9	0.02	19	66	c	Southport	1.3	0.08	14	57	c
Hastings	4.7	0.01	17	63	b	Southsea	X				
Hayling I	7.0	-	19	66	s	Stornoway	-	0.54	10	50	c
Herne Bay	4.0		X	X	s	Swanage	10.4	-	18	64	s
Hove	7.1	0.27	17	63	b	Teignmouth	4.7	-	19	66	s
Hunstanton	5.1	0.14	21	70	s	Tenby	1.0	0.09	17	63	c
Isle of Man	0.7	0.10	14	57	d	Tiree	0.5	0.06	13	55	sh
Jersey	0.1	0.11	18	64	sh	Torquay	5.3	-	20	68	s
Kinloss	-	0.30	11	52	r	Tynemouth	-	0.06	16	61	c
Leeds	1.9	0.04	21	70	s	Ventnor	8.4	0.01	17	63	s
Lerwick	-	0.28	11	52	fg	Weston-s-mare	0.8	-	19	66	c
Leuchars	0.2	0.01	18	64	r	Weymouth	3.6	0.01	17	63	s

ABROAD

Ajaccio	26	79	s	Corfu	27	81	s	Majorca	27	81	s	Rome	27	81	s
Akrotiri	25	77	f	C'phagn	23	73	s	Malaga	25	77	s	S Frisco	17	63	s
Alex'dria	27	81	s	Dublin	17	63	c	Malta	30	86	s	S Paulo	21	70	s
Algiers	25	77	s	Dubrovnik	25	77	f	Melb'rne	14	57	s	Salzburg	26	79	s
Amst'dm	17	63	c	Faro	21	70	s	Mexico C	24	75	s	Santiago	11	52	f
Athens	27	81	f	Florence	29	84	s	Miami	29	84	f	Seoul	27	81	s
B Aires	16	61	f	Frankfurt	23	73	f	Milan	29	84	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	37	99	s	Funchal	22	72	f	Montreal	26	79	s	St'kholm	24	75	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	25	77	f	Moscow	27	81	f	Strasb'rg	24	75	f
Barbados	X			Gibraltar	28	82	s	Munich	26	79	f	Sydney	16	61	s
Barcelona	26	79	s	Helsinki	21	70	f	N Delhi	37	99	s	Tangier	24	75	s
Beirut	27	81	s	Hong K	27	81	f	N York	31	88	s	Tel Aviv	27	81	s
Belgrade	29	84	s	Innsbrck	26	79	s	Nairobi	24	75	s	Tenerife	28	82	s
Berlin	27	81	f	Istanbul	21	70	r	Naples	28	82	s	Tokyo	25	77	s
Bermuda	25	77	c	Jeddah	36	97	s	Nice	24	75	s	Toronto	26	79	f
Biarritz	20	68	f	Jo'burg	11	52	f	Oslo	25	77	f	Tunis	36	97	s
Bord'x	24	75	f	L Angels	19	66	f	Paris	22	72	c	Valencia	30	86	f
Brussels	19	66	c	L Palmas	26	79	s	Peking	35	95	s	Vanc'ver	14	57	c
Budapst	29	84	f	Le Touqt	17	63	f	Perth	16	61	f	Venice	27	81	s
Cairo	30	86	s	Lisbon	23	73	f	Prague	26	79	f	Vienna	24	75	f
Cape Tn	18	64	s	Locarno	27	81	s	Reykjavik	9	48	s	Warsaw	22	72	f
Ch'church	9	48	s	Luxembg	19	66	c	Rhodes	25	77	s	Wash'ton	27	81	c
Chicago	24	75	f	Luxor	34	93	c	Rio de J	22	72	f	Wel'ngton	12	54	X
Cologne	22	72	f	Madrid	27	81	f	Riyadh	43	109	s	Zurich	25	77	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low B will track southeast into Spain and fill slowly. Low T is expected to deepen as it moves east across Scandinavia

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Orient-Express to Southampton on 13 July ● ten night Land of the Midnight Sun QE2 cruise to Trondheim via Iceland ● tour Oslo ● fly to Heathrow £1,499

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Concorde to Brussels on 30 August ● overnight in Amsterdam ● two night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Guernsey ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299

Four night Oriana cruise on 5 October from Southampton to Tenerife via Madeira ● Concorde to Heathrow £1,399

Concorde supersonic to Tenerife on 6 Nov. ● seven night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Casablanca ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

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THE TIMES 2

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft
SATURDAY JUNE 14 1997

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

WORKING WEEK
Man of property and a jack of all sports
PAGE 27

BUSINESS
Graham Searjeant on Hanson's fall from the big time
PAGE 29

SPORT
Hill threatens to take flight from failing Arrows
PAGES 42-48

THE TIMES CITY DIARY
PAGE 27

US bank pays £15m to Mirror pensioners

By Jason Nissé

MORGAN STANLEY, the US investment bank, has paid around £15 million to settle the final legal action brought by the Mirror Group pension scheme in the wake of the loss of over £400 million from the Maxwell empire's pension funds.

The settlement means that for the first time since the shortfall was discovered after Robert Maxwell's death in November 1991, the Mirror scheme is in surplus.

Morgan Stanley Trust Company, a subsidiary of the investment bank, was one of the custodians for shares owned by the Mirror scheme. These assets were used as collateral for loans to Maxwell private companies in the months before Maxwell died.

The loans were called in by banks in the days after the publisher's death, so precipitating the collapse of Maxwell Communication Corporation, which was listed on the stock market, as well as the Maxwell private companies, though Mirror Group remained solvent throughout. The banks then refused to return the assets to the funds, leading to massive legal actions.

The trustees of the Mirror scheme sued Morgan Stanley for £65 million plus costs and punitive damages in October 1995 after the Wall Street firm refused to join in the £276 million global settlement of all outstanding claims by the pension funds, brokered by Lord Cuckney in his role as head of the Maxwell Pensions Unit.

That settlement — along with payments from firms including Credit Suisse, Invesco and Bank of America, after legal actions by the Maxwell schemes — meant that all the pensions for present and past employees of the Maxwell publishing empire were secured.

Yesterday both Morgan Stanley and the trustees of the Mirror scheme confirmed that a settlement had been reached. "Something has happened and that action is now settled," said Ian Urquhart, chairman of the Mirror Group pension trustees. "However the confidential nature of the settlement means I cannot disclose the figure."

A spokeswoman for Morgan Stanley also said the action had been settled but added that the payment to the Mirror scheme was covered by a confidentiality agreement. However, it is understood that the figure ultimately paid by Morgan Stanley in full and final settlement was in the region of £15 million.

The payment means that the Mirror scheme now has a surplus of assets over liabilities. This would allow Mirror Group — whose managing director, Charles Wilson, is a trustee of the scheme — to suspend or reduce its payments to the pension fund.

The Mirror scheme has not entirely given up its quest to recover its lost funds. It has asked Kevin Maxwell, Robert Maxwell's son, to aid it in finding any assets which may still be missing.

Mr Maxwell was acquitted of all fraud and theft charges relating to the Maxwell affair last year. He has said he is willing to meet with the trustees so long as they will also discuss the issue of a pension which his mother, Betty Maxwell, claims is due to her from Mirror Group.

Mr Urquhart said that this meeting has yet to take place and no final date has been agreed for the meeting.

The Mirror scheme has worked closely with Travers Smith Braithwaite, the City law firm, in tracing funds lost by the scheme.

Tom Farmer made Kwik-Fit a force in Europe

Dominic Cadbury

Ross Buckland

Angus Grossart: services to the arts

John Jennings: retires this month

Kwik-Fit king knighted

By Jon Ashworth

TOM FARMER, founder of Kwik-Fit Holdings, has been knighted for services to the automotive industry. Ross Buckland, chief executive of Unigate, and Dominic Cadbury, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, are among other business leaders to be knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Sir Tom, 56, has built Kwik-Fit into Europe's largest independent retailer of tyres and exhausts. Born in Leith, the youngest of seven children, he was appointed CBE in 1990 and was recently honoured by the Vatican for his "exceptional" service to the church and the wider community.

Angus Grossart, the Scottish merchant banker and former chairman of the National Galleries of Scotland, is knighted for services to the arts. John Jennings, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, is knighted ahead of his retirement later this month. There is an honorary knighthood for Jürgen Gehrels, chief executive of Siemens in the UK.

Tim Congdon, one of the former "wise men", is appointed CBE for services to economic debate. Other CBEs include Pen Kent, executive director of the Bank of England; Brian Baldock, former deputy chairman of Guinness; Joseph Dwek, chairman of Bodycote International; Bruce Farmer, group managing director of Morgan Crucible; Bob Hawley, chief executive of British Energy; and Richard Lapthorne, finance director of British Aerospace.

Block on Energy takeover feared

By Oliver August

THE City yesterday gave a clear signal that it thought the recommended £3.6 billion bid for The Energy Group, tabled yesterday by PacifiCorp, would be blocked. Energy's shares fell 2p and closed 49.5p below the offer price of 695.5p.

Investors fear that political objections will derail the takeover, which needs to be approved by the Department of Trade and Industry, Stephen Littlechild, the UK electricity regulator, and as many as 24 US regional regulators.

John Devaney, Energy's chief executive, dismissed the regulatory issues, saying: "There is no change to competitive structures so it's difficult to see why the change in government should change matters." Mr Devaney and Derek Bonham, Energy's chairman, are set to join the PacifiCorp board.

The market is also concerned about PacifiCorp's level of debt after the bid. It already has nearly £4 billion of debts and will take on £2.3 billion of Energy's borrowings as well as paying £3.6 billion to Energy shareholders.

The US utility will finance the deal with asset sales and is issuing junk bonds underwritten by Goldman Sachs, Citibank and JP Morgan. It has sold its telecommunications business for £1 billion and intends to sell a further four businesses.

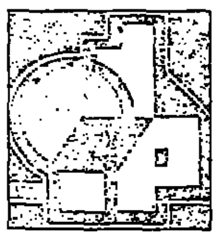
Energy also reported its interim results yesterday. In the six months to March 31, underlying operating profit grew to £317 million from £243 million, while pre-tax profit before exceptionals fell to £260 million from £279 million. Earnings per share fell to 34.5p from 36.5p. On July 4, current shareholders will receive the interim dividend of 5.5p which is already reflected in the offer price.

WEEKEND MONEY
PERSONAL FINANCE EXPLAINED OF THE YEAR

31 Anne Ashworth on the prospects for savers

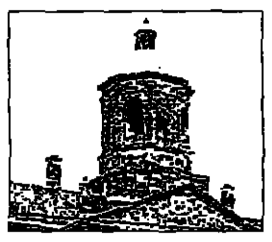
29 Industrial strife over pension surpluses

SAVINGS



30 Speculators circle the Nationwide

INVESTMENT



35 European funds voice concerns over EMU

HOUSE BUYING

37 Government plans to simplify home purchase

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4783.1	(+25.7)
Yield	3.43%	
FTSE All-share	2266.11	(+13.12)
Nikkei	20528.35	(-36.11)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7770.28	(+58.81)*
S&P Composite	891.98	(+8.50)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5⁵⁄₈%)
Long Bond	98⅞*	(98⁷⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.71%*	(6.77%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⁵⁄₁₆%	(6⁵⁄₈%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	114⅛	(114⅛)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6353*	(1.6305)
London:		
$	1.6354	(1.6349)
DM	2.8421	(2.8184)
FFr	9.5907	(9.5124)
SFr	2.3650	(2.3596)
Yen	187.58	(180.27)
£ Index	100.3	(99.6)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7395*	(1.7290)
FFr	5.8670*	(5.8340)
SFr	1.4467*	(1.4440)
Yen	114.83*	(114.20)
$ Index	102.6	(102.4)

Tokyo close Yen 114.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	$17.95 ($17.70)

GOLD

London close	$341.85 ($342.55)

* denotes midday trading price

FTSE 100 record

The FTSE 100 share index closed 25.7 points higher at a record of 4,783.1, lifted by another strong performance on Wall Street. The pound rose 2.45 pfennigs to DM2.8415, amid continuing uncertainty over monetary union **Page 28**

Warning sends Rank shares to two-year low

By Eric Reguly

RANK, the leisure group, lost £350 million in market value yesterday after it issued a disappointing trading statement. The shares closed down 40½p, at 385p, putting them at their lowest level in two years.

Analysts trimmed their forecasts after Rank said that underlying turnover grew by only 1 per cent in the five months to the end of May.

In the City, the figures raised more doubts over the strategy being implemented by Andrew Teare, the chief executive. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson now expects pretax profits of £335 million this year, down £10 million on its previous forecast. Operating profits from continuing businesses have risen 7 per cent so far. Analysts were expecting a double-digit rise.

Shares of Carlton Communications, which also has a substantial video duplication business, were dragged lower by Rank's trading statement.

Tempus, page 28

Arbib nets £16m from stake in Perpetual

By Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth

MARTYN ARBIB, chairman of Perpetual, the fund management group, sold 600,000 shares in the company yesterday, netting a total of £16 million. The move reduced his stake to 20 per cent.

Perpetual said that the shares were sold for personal reasons. Three other individuals also sold a total of 750,000 shares, netting £20.3 million.

Mr Arbib is the 42nd richest person in the country, according to *The Sunday Times*, with estimated wealth of £360 million. He is currently building a house in Barbados and his other great love is racehorses.

Last month, in a move believed to be designed to benefit Mr Arbib, Perpetual brought forward the payment of its interim dividend, putting cash into its shareholders' pockets early. Perpetual was responding to speculation that the Chancellor plans to cut the rate of advance corporation tax, which is deducted from dividends before they are paid to shareholders.

Walls in line for fourth payout

By Paul Durman

STEPHEN WALLS, executive chairman of Albert Fisher, could be set for his fourth takeover windfall if the food company accepts a bid approach it is currently considering.

Mr Walls, 50, whose two-year contract last year paid him £403,000, would be expected to receive about £700,000 if he were to leave Albert Fisher in the wake of its takeover. This would add to the millions he made after his last three companies were taken over or merged.

Fisher has begun talks with a potential bidder, believed to be a quoted overseas company. Heavy trading in Fisher shares yesterday morning forced it to tell the stock market of the development. Fisher's depressed shares rose from 34½p to 46½p, valuing the company at £330 million.

Fisher's annual sales of fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen food and seafood total about £1.7 billion. However, the company's poor record means it is unlikely to command a price of much more than £400 million, or 56p a share.

Mr Walls was managing director at Plessey, which succumbed to a £1.7 billion hostile bid from GEC in 1989. He moved to Wiggins Teape Appleton, the paper company spun off from BAT Industries, but that merged with Arjomari-Prioux of France.

Tempus, page 28

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Woolwich Life	31.98
Abbey National Life	32.78
Barclays Life	35.40
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Nationwide Life	37.81
Clerical Medical	45.50
Black Horse Life	46.38
Scottish Life	58.51
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Woolwich Life	77.05
Abbey National Life	77.58
Nat West Life	82.10
Nationwide Life	83.50
Barclays Life	86.00
Black Horse Life	101.68
Clerical Medical	111.20
Scottish Life	137.40
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NU shares expected to trade above 340p

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Norwich Union are expected to start trading at between 340p and 350p when the insurer comes to the stock market on Monday, boosting the minimum payout for policyholders by 25 per cent, to £1,050.

Members who hold on to their shares could be even better off as the price is squeezed higher by institutional investors. A number of predators, including AMP of Australia, are expected to start building up their holdings on the first day of trading.

Market-makers were reporting keen buying by fund managers on the unofficial "grey" market yesterday, with some quoting the expected opening price as 353p. The bidding process for institutions to buy into Norwich Union's book-building exercise closed last night. A large proportion of bids were from Europe and the United States.

The offer for individuals closed on Tuesday. A significant number of private investors have applied for the maximum share allocation of £100,000. City Index, the financial bookmakers, said that the price in the grey market was between 343p and 353p yesterday, up from the opening quotation of 300p to 310p. IG Index quoted 345p to 354p.

Both Norwich Union's public offer, open to private investors and institutions, and the members' offer, open to the company's existing policyholders, have been up to six times oversubscribed.

The strike price at which shares will be allocated to individuals and institutions who applied in advance is expected to be 290p, but will be confirmed tomorrow. The official range for the share price from Kleinwort Benson, Norwich Union's adviser, is 240p to 290p. Members who applied via the members' offer are eligible for a 25p per share discount.

Most institutions indicated to Kleinwort Benson that they were prepared to pay the strike price.

☐ Two dissident US investors in Lloyd's of London have begun a lawsuit against Norwich Union. Mark and Elizabeth Levy launched their action in California, alleging breach of contract, negligence and fraud. The action relates to an investment company managed and marketed by Lloyd's through which US citizens made investments at Lloyd's. Norwich Union said: "We have the writ and we are seeking legal advice."

Not enough shares, page 30

Pace loses another director

By ERIC REGULY

PACE Micro Technology, the TV set-top box maker that lost its chief executive and issued two profits warnings in February, said yesterday that Steven Jones, finance director, is to resign.

Pace said that his decision was voluntary and did not reflect the share performance or suggest further management turmoil. Peter Morgan, chairman, said: "The situation with Steve is perfectly amicable."

Mr Jones, 43, who has been finance director for four years, will stay on until a replacement is found. The company hopes to announce his successor shortly after the year-end results are published next month.

Pace shares plummeted in February. Yesterday the shares rose 1p to 62½p. Their 52-week high was 242½p.

ADRIAN SHERRATT

SIR PETER OSBORNE had good news for investors in Osborne & Little yesterday. The wallpaper and furnishing fabrics group, which disappointed some investors at the interim stage when it said it would not be paying a third annual special dividend, is increasing its final dividend to 12p from 7.5p. This gives a full-year dividend of 20p, against last year's 24.5p, which included a 12.5p special payment. Sir Peter, chairman, reported a 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £4.82 million in the year to March 31 on turnover up 16 per cent to £32.1 million. The shares rose 15p to 770p.

SWT staff in pensions challenge

By CAROLINE MERRELL

EMPLOYEES of South West Trains, owned by Stagecoach, have launched a legal challenge to new pension terms being imposed by the newly privatised company.

The SWT workers are hoping to substantially increase their pension rights in the scheme, which was part of the former British Rail fund. At privatisation this fund, which was operated for all rail employees, was worth around £7 billion. The employees want their pensions to be based on their whole salaries, not a lesser percentage, as agreed at the time of the sale of SWT to Stagecoach. Brian Souter, Stagecoach chairman, received pension benefits worth £62,000 last year.

If the employees win their case, it could cost the SWT pension scheme hundreds of thousands of pounds. The other schemes operated by the 25 rail franchise-holders could also be affected.

Last year, SWT reached an agreement with Aslef, the biggest rail workers' union, over employment terms and conditions. The rail franchisee agreed to change the way pensions were calculated. Instead of using a basic £11,000 level of pay, which is based on final salary, South West Trains agreed to uprate this to £18,000.

However, a group of SWT employees want all pay to be included when calculating pension benefits.

Anne Ashworth, page 31

English China Clays shares advance 14%

By CARL MORTISHED

SHARES of English China Clays, the materials group, rose 14 per cent after it revealed volume and margin gains in Europe and North America.

ECC said that sales volumes in Europe in the first five months of the year had increased 4 per cent over the comparable period in 1996, while US sales volumes had risen 2 per cent.

ECC plunged into loss last year after it took a one-off charge of £95 million for restructuring and a write-down of its middle Georgia kaolin reserves.

Patrick Drayton, finance director, said that the improved profitability stemmed in part from increasing volumes as demand for coated papers improved in the US.

Tempus, page 28

Warning on profits knocks Logica price

By MARTIN BARROW

THERE was more bad news for Logica investors yesterday, when the software group revealed profits would fall short of City expectations this year.

The shares, worth £10.62 as recently as March, fell 94½p to 755p as the company said that profits would be affected by the strength of the pound and slower than expected headcount growth in the UK.

Even the announcement of contracts in the UK, France and Indonesia failed to rekindle enthusiasm for the stock. Expressing dismay, Martin Read, chief executive, said: "Our profits will be well up on last year . . . That is really why we are disappointed."

Brokers now expect profits of £28 million, against original forecasts of £29.5 million.

Tempus, page 28

THE SUNDAY TIMES

WARNING.

Ford

TOMORROW IS YOUR LAST CHANCE
TO ENTER THE GREAT FORD GIVE-AWAY.

See The Sunday Times Sports section tomorrow for details.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

French set their sights on Unicorn

By CHRIS AYRES

SAINT-GOBAIN, the French industrial group, yesterday launched an £85.5 million bid for Unicorn International, the fast-growing Midlands abrasives manufacturer that floated on the stock market in December 1995.

The offer values Unicorn's shares at 225p each, a 45 per cent premium on Thursday's closing price of 155p.

The cash bid, which is being made by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson on behalf of Saint-Gobain's abrasives division, has so far been accepted by just over a third of Unicorn's shareholders. Other investors who have not yet given their support include Threadneedle Asset Management, Prudential, Aberforth and Friends Provident.

David Rimmer, chief executive of Unicorn, said: "After we came to the market we made good progress, but now we need access to global markets. We will operate as a separate business unit within Saint-Gobain, although we will have access to their resources."

Unicorn earned a pre-tax profit of £7.3 million (£6 million) last year, on sales of £102 million. Saint-Gobain said the deal would enhance its range of products.

Campaigner for names accused

By JON ASHWORTH

CHRISTOPHER Stockwell, the controversial Lloyd's campaigner, has been accused of failing to declare £350,000 in consultancy fees arising from his role as chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association Working Party (LNAWP).

It was claimed at Oxford County Court that Mr Stockwell, 48, of Kingham, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, had lied about his income since being made bankrupt in June 1994. He is to be discharged as a bankrupt next Friday.

Mr Stockwell denies the allegation, which emerged in a public examination by his trustee in bankruptcy. He is accused of declaring no more than £30,000 a year in salary from Bradglade, a property management company where he was formerly sole director.

Hilary Stonefrost, for the trustee, said: "The money you earn does not go into the estate of your creditors, but into the company effectively owned by you and your wife." Bradglade was a device created to keep "substantial" payments from the creditors.

Mr Stockwell denied the allegation: "I am paid only by Bradglade and on a monthly basis." The hearing was adjourned.

Finance chief quits National Grid

By OLIVER AUGUST

JOHN UTTLEY, the National Grid finance director who gave back his £60,000 flotation bonus, yesterday resigned from the utility with no firm prospect of a new job.

National Grid denied that Mr Uttley's sudden departure was connected to the "fat cat" row two years ago. At the time, Mr Uttley was the only one of four executive directors who publicly gave to charity the special dividend, widely criticised as being unjustified, after a request by Tim Eggar, the then Energy Minister.

There is also believed to have been a difference of opinion over the possible flotation of Energis, the Grid's telecoms business. Mr Uttley is thought to have opposed a float, while the rest of the board have approved the appointment of advisers.

A spokesman said: "In no way is John's departure linked to the special dividend. What happened two years ago has nothing to do with this."

The new finance director will be Stephen Box, a partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm that advised National Grid during the 1990 privatisation of the industry. He starts on August 4.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Airbus seeks to halt Boeing/Douglas

AIRBUS has launched a counter-offensive against the takeover of McDonnell Douglas by Boeing, its main rival in the world aviation market. Jean Pierson, the Airbus managing director, made representations to Karl van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner, that could lead to an offical EU veto of the $13 billion deal. The European consortium, which includes British Aerospace, is opposed to the takeover because it would turn the market for large commercial aircraft into a duopoly and give Boeing 70 per cent global market share. The objections of Airbus also include the exclusive supply contracts Boeing has with several US airlines.

Mr Van Miert called Airbus and Boeing to a closed-doors hearing in Brussels. He had already signalled his opposition to the takeover last month. Sources close to the EU's merger investigation noted positions had hardly changed. "They have not convinced us," an EU source said. The Commission will now prepare a draft decision for a July 4 meeting of national competition experts. The EU Commission must reach a final verdict by July 31. On July 1, the US Federal Trade Commission will announce its own ruling.

Guinness merger twist

LVMH (Moet Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton) yesterday began proceedings that could damage the merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan. The French luxury goods group, which has a 14.2 per cent stake in Guinness and opposes the planned £24 billion merger, has asked the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris to put to an International Court of Arbitration its claim that the deal represents a change of control at Guinness. The process could take a year but Guinness denied that there would be any delay to the merger.

EasyJet buys planes

EASYJET, the low-fare airline that left holidaymakers stranded last month because of a shortage of aircraft, is to buy £300 million worth of new jets. EasyJet has ordered 12 Boeing 737s, with six due to arrive next year and the other six in 1999. The expansion could result in the creation of 250 more jobs, doubling the current workforce. The airline currently has five 737s with a sixth arriving in November. EasyJet operates services to Nice, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.

New UK chief at CU

COMMERCIAL UNION has appointed Cees Schrauwers, 50, to the position of managing director at the UK division from July 1. He was previously responsible for CU's UK non-life insurance businesses. In his new role, Mr Schrauwers will be responsible for all life and non-life trading and support activities in the UK. The move will also see Mr Schrauwers join the board of Commercial Union Assurance Company, the CU Group's principal trading company.

Burndene pulls ahead

BURNDENE INVESTMENTS, the caravan, hosiery and property group, raised pre-tax profits 6.8 per cent for the 26 weeks to March 29, from £2.2 million to £2.35 million. Turnover was up 11.5 per cent, from £42.2 million to £47 million, with earnings per share up from 1.4p to 1.5p. An unchanged interim dividend of 0.75p will be paid on September 1. The company said that its holiday home division had improved profits, although exports had been hit by the strength of sterling.

Constance stake for IWP

IWP, the manufacturer and distributor of household and personal care products, is to pay £38.5 million for an 80 per cent stake in Constance Carroll, a privately owned manufacturer of skincare products. The company also has an option to acquire the outstanding 20 per cent in the year 2000. IWP, which is based in the Republic of Ireland, reported annual pre-tax profits of Ir£22.37 million, up from Ir£21.6 million. Earnings were Ir22.68p a share (Ir20.55p) and the total dividend is increased to Ir5.34p from Ir4.85p, with a final Ir3.14p.

Clyde Blowers expands

CLYDE BLOWERS, the Glasgow engineering group, yesterday announced the acquisition of the sootblower division of Copes-Vulcan for $12.19 million. The purchase will be financed through the issue of new shares to the vendor at 340p each, worth $8.65 million. Debt facilities of $5 million have been agreed with the Royal Bank of Scotland. Clyde Blowers says the purchase will allow it to achieve outright world market leadership in boiler cleaning equipment.

Henderson pay up 12%

TOTAL boardroom pay at Henderson, the investment management group, rose 12 per cent to £3.1 million last year. Earlier this week, Henderson reported a 3 per cent rise in its pre-tax profits to £20.8 million and an unchanged dividend. Dugald Eadie, managing director, was paid £323,000 (£288,000), including an £88,000 bonus. The highest bonus of £96,000 was paid to Ian Buckley, group investment director, whose total pay rose from £296,000 to £303,000. Ben Wrey, chairman, was paid £293,000 (£289,000), with a £54,000 bonus.

Glaxo Wellcome buy

GLAXO WELLCOME has bought a small Californian genetics research company for $9 million and laid off all but two of the 15 staff. Spectra Biomedical had been working with Glaxo Wellcome to find the genetic basis of migraine. Glaxo Wellcome is enthusiastic about Spectra's association genetics technology, which offers a way of rapidly establishing the links between diseases and the gene defects that cause them. Stephen Peroutka, Spectra's president, and Keith Jones, its senior scientist, are to join Glaxo Wellcome.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.27	2.11
Austria Sch	20.86	19.31
Belgium Fr	61.41	56.77
Canada $	2.369	2.194
Cyprus Cyp£	0.882	0.815
Denmark Kr	11.32	10.50
Finland Mkk	9.01	8.31
France Fr	9.98	9.26
Germany Dm	2.99	2.76
Greece Dr	474	437
Hong Kong $	13.39	12.26
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.13	1.05
Israel Shk	5.91	5.26
Italy Lira	2945	2723
Japan Yen	201.40	184.90
Malta	0.663	0.607
Netherlds Gld	3.385	3.087
New Zealand $	2.52	2.30
Norway Kr	12.41	11.53
Portugal Esc	297.50	277.00
S Africa Rd	8.05	7.13
Spain Pta	250.00	232.50
Sweden Kr	13.44	12.41
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.30
Turkey Lira	246366	227810
USA $	1.734	1.600

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE BILL

"All that was left was for Gerry Robinson and Ward Thomas to agree the final price at which Yorkshire would join Granada's empire. However, as Garry Kasparov knows, it is the endgame that can prove to be the most difficult"

Business — tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

bus seeks to halt
eing/ Douglas

inness merger twist

Jet buys planes

A WORKING WEEK FOR: DAVID GOLDSTONE

A man of property and a jack of all sports

Jon Ashworth meets a high-flyer helped by tennis, the gym and aircraft beds

David Goldstone makes an unlikely property tycoon. Monday might find him at his desk in central London, browsing through the weekend post. Friday could see him in Hong Kong, selling luxury apartments to high-rolling Cantonese. Were it not for the chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce, he could be just another businessman.

But he is not. Goldstone, at 68, is still active at an age *when many millionaires will* have cashed in and retreated to the Riviera. Regalian Properties, which he founded 30 years ago, continues to transform vast swaths of central London, including such landmarks as the MI6 headquarters at Vauxhall Cross, and Peninsula Heights, where Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare has a riverside penthouse. His stake in the company is worth about £5 million. Fashionably, he supports *Labour*, and has done so all his working life.

Regalian has nearly gone bust twice — once in the Seventies, and again in the early Nineties when the company plunged to a pre-tax loss of £84 million. Goldstone made his son, Lee, redundant, describing the act as "perhaps the saddest moment of my career". But these are happier times. Regalian is back in the black, and is expected to show a further improvement when the latest figures come out this month. Lee Goldstone, who left with a £300,000 payoff, rejoined Regalian in December 1995.

Money is pouring in from the Far East, where speculators *are clamouring to invest* in London property. The phenomenon dates to 1993 when a handful of London estate agents began making weekend trips to Singapore and Hong Kong. Advertising heavily in advance, they would turn up on Friday night, set up their wares in an hotel and promote on Saturday and Sunday. Goldstone, who spent two days in Singapore this week, recalls: "People would come in, buy their property, and then the agents would, like the Oxford Street traders, close their suitcases, and catch the plane back to London."

There is talk of London property doubling in value over ten years. Others foresee 50 per cent gains over three years. Goldstone reels off the numbers with a wry smile. "I find a certain amount of difficulty in knowing what's going to happen tomorrow," he says in his soft Welsh lilt. "We think that the next few years ought to be reasonably good for central London property."

Goldstone likes to see the action for himself, flying first class with British Airways. He avoids food and drink, and *sleeps through the flight*. "I'm one of those lucky guys. I probably get more sleep on a plane than at any other time in my life." He takes full advantage of BA's *fold-down beds*. "I'm lucky because I'm a *little* guy. Some people don't find it all that comfortable."

Jet lag poses few problems. Goldstone flew in from Singapore on Wednesday morning, went home to freshen up, then *spent a full day in the office.* The rest of the week was filled with meetings, before a welcome drive to the Cotswolds, where the Goldstones have their country home.

Regalian's office is in a quiet road near New Bond Street, five minutes from Goldstone's home near Hyde Park. He is in the office by about 7am, and likes to go through the mail and catch up on the news, before embarking on the first of many meetings. Chairman and chief executive of Regalian, he has a wealth of outside interests, including the London School of Economics, from which he graduated in 1952 with an honours degree in law. He sits on the Council of the University of London, and is heavily involved with London First, which waves the flag for the capital.

Evenings are kept free where possible. Goldstone works out in a local gym three times a week, keeping him in *shape for tennis, which is a* passion. His working week runs through to lunchtime on Friday, when the Rolls is waiting for the run to the Cotswolds. The Goldstones spend most weekends in the country, though less so in the winter. "It's very relaxing, playing tennis, with people talking, eating, drinking. It's a very nice way of getting away." Work is not forgotten entirely. "The weekend is very much the selling period of property, so I do have contact with all the sites on a Sunday."

It all nearly went horribly wrong with Kensington Palace Gardens, a luxury development opposite Kensington Palace. Regalian bought the site in 1987 for £20 million, spending about £80 million in all, and set about flogging £14 million penthouses in the depths of recession. There were no takers. The units went in the end, but the project was not a financial success.

Regalian was heavily exposed during the recession — the company was a prime developer in London's Docklands — but Goldstone says there is little choice in such matters. "In August 1988, with *the double mortgage blip*, the market effectively ceased to exist for residential property. But we had sites which were on the ground, under construction. It's like one of those *big tankers. You just don't* change direction immediately." His strategy was to switch into commercial property, spawning projects such as Vauxhall Cross.

Goldstone works hard, but *makes time for himself. He is* rarely out more than one evening a week, and likes to catch up on the newspapers. He watches television occasionally, and goes to the Proms quite a bit. Regalian has a box at the Albert Hall.

Soccer has long been a passion, although Goldstone no longer attends games, and prefers to watch rugby on television. He is past chairman of Swansea City and Cardiff City, and was a selector for the Welsh national side in the late Sixties and early Seventies. "I'm interested in all sports. I dabble around with tennis. I used to play a reasonable game of squash. I enjoyed football as a kid. I played to a reasonable standard of table tennis in my time, played badminton, hockey . . . I'm a jack of all sports, and master of none."

Born in Swansea in 1929, he attended Dynevor Grammar School, then served in the *Army from 1947 to 1949, before* law school beckoned. His accent remains strong to this day. "Although I'm not aware that I speak with a Welsh accent, I listen to myself on television and it's very, very strong. It is literally now 50 years since I left school, went into the Army, and stopped living in Wales. I don't know what conclusions one should draw, if any,. but Michael Heseltine comes from Swansea, and Michael Howard *comes from Llanelli, which is* just outside Swansea."

Goldstone laughs when I suggest that the politicians have been taking elocution lessons. "Maybe they say that I've gone to elocution lessons to retain my Welsh accent." He remembers the young Heseltine playing tennis during summer holidays in Swansea, but has never actually taken him on.

With property booming again, Regalian is busier than ever. It recently purchased the Marble Arch Tower at the foot of Edgware Road, and intends to smarten it up, upgrading the shops and creating offices for visiting businessmen. Regalian has a share in a site in Paddington, earmarked for shops, offices and homes.

Goldstone has every intention of carrying on well into his seventies — as is common in the Far East, where age is venerated. "I enjoy my work, and, for me, every day is an adventure. I'm not conscious of my 68½ years." Regalian is a public company, but it remains Goldstone's creation. "It's been my baby, yes," he says, anxious not to offend Regalian's shareholders. "I *would like to carry on for as* long as I'm physically and mentally able."

. With tennis, the gym and BA's flying beds, that could be a long, long time.

> ‘He made his son redundant, describing the act as perhaps the saddest of his career’

ASHLEY COOMBES

While others have cashed in and retreated to the Riviera, David Goldstone can frequently be found travelling to the Far East to make a sale

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

A head for scalps

KAREN Morgan Thomas, the former James Capel *high-flyer* caught up in that nasty business concerning Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and some Anglia TV shares, has a new job, I hear. Morgan Thomas, who faced an unpleasant grilling at the hands of DTI inspectors — no action was taken — has turned to the business of hunting scalps. She has signed up with Heidrick & Struggles, the executive search firm. Her many Westminster and City contacts should *stand her in* good stead.

● *A DARK rumour swept the market yesterday that the massive computer system at Barclays had crashed. There are viruses floating around designed to cause problems on any Friday 13. Debugging Barclays would have been a nightmare. In fact the bank's Wythenshawe computer centre near Manchester became overloaded and crashed for eight hours. Glad to put the record straight.*

Party ties

ROBERT Louis-Dreyfus, former chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, is 50 this weekend, the old smoothie, and is throwing a huge party for friends — in St Petersburg. Two names will not be on the guest list, I fear. They are Charles and Maurice, whose involvement with Louis-Dreyfus at Adidas *ended in legal fisticuffs.*

Rank clash

RANK Organisation chief executive Andrew Teare yesterday *put out a dreadful trading* statement, Simultaneously English China Clays, a company where Andrew Teare was chief executive and which has spent much time putting right some of his mistakes, put out a cheery statement. Even spookier, this is the second time since his departure that *news from English China* Clays has thus coincided with news from Rank going in the opposite direction. You don't think they are trying to make a point, do you?

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER, REALLY USEFUL COMPANY LANES

"Least his money won't be leaving the country"

● *HOW interesting that Neil Cooper of accountants Robson Rhodes is joining Buchler Phillips. Was it not Cooper who was praised by the House of Commons Social Security Select Committee over its work on the liquidation of the Maxwell group pension schemes? And was Peter Phillips, founder of Buchler Phillips, not carpeted by the committee over its Maxwell work? They should have lots to reminisce about.*

Crunch time

ONE fund manager who should have little problem getting onto the shortlist for beauty parades is Nicola Horlick, who starts her new job at Société Générale on Monday. Those potential clients who have not yet met her must surely be curious to do so. Working as head of a new team, Horlick at last has a chance to prove what she has been telling us all along, that she is a brilliant fund manager. It will be interesting to chart her progress.

MARTIN WALLER

POTENTIALLY MERSEYSIDE IS THE CALL CENTRE OF EUROPE. OUR INVESTMENT IN THE PEOPLE IS A CLEAR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

You're America's biggest TV shopping channel. And you want to expand in Europe.

So where in the entire continent do you site your call centre? Paris? Dublin? Amsterdam?

No, Knowsley.

QVC's call centre operation has recently opened and continues to grow in Knowsley, Merseyside. For sound reasons.

The region's telecommunications technology is already well known. Amongst the best and most *extensive in the world, highly competitive with four* telecom providers in the region.

"We like the warmth and openness of everyone, and the 'can-do' attitude."

Even less hush-hush of course, is a Merseysider's talent for talking. A talent that's been brilliantly employed in the pools, insurance and home shopping businesses for generations. On Merseyside, doing business on the phone is in the blood.

But, QVC also chose *Merseyside for less* obvious advantages.

They found out about lower operational costs and wide site availability. About some of the most attractive financial incentives, recruitment and training packages in Europe. About the regular forum of existing Merseyside call centres who pool their knowledge and share that information with new investors.

But above all, they found out about the attitude of the people who work here.

"The combination of the Merseyside friendliness and an ideal working environment will create a brilliant team here."

Look at some of the other call centres who are already established on Merseyside- Barclays Direct Loan Services, NatWest and Swedish company Intrum Justitia. And in other sectors, Ford, General Motors, Kodak and Sony continue to succeed.

So could Merseyside really become the call centre capital of Europe?

It's happening even as we speak.

DAN McDERMOTT
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, QVC THE SHOPPING CHANNEL

TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE INVESTMENT POTENTIAL ON MERSEYSIDE TELEPHONE 0800 22 0151
Email: merseyp@mail.cybase.co.uk

MERSEYSIDE
A'pool of talent

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

GUS sparkles amid talk of shareholder bonus

IT WAS just as if the summer sales had arrived early in the *high street*. **Great Universal Stores** was the best performing company among the top 100, ending 38½p higher at 701p, its highest level this year, amid speculation the group might be planning another windfall payment for shareholders before the Budget.

Brokers *pointed out that the* group had brought forward publication of its full-year figures to June 26, just days before the first Budget delivery by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Last year the group reported on July 11.

There was speculation last *night that the board* of GUS had made the move because it wanted to hand back some of its cash surplus, currently estimated at more than £500 million, in the form of a special dividend, or share buyback operation. It would be the second cash hand back in two years. In 1995 it paid shareholders £302 million by way of a special dividend.

There were also suggestions the group might spend some of its *money* on *another* foray into the US retail market.

The rest of the equity market ended the week on a firm note with share prices again following Wall Street higher. Cheered by a clutch of bids, the FTSE 100 index came within a whisker of the 4,800 level before profit-taking saw it close below its best of the day. It ended 25.7 up at a new closing high of 4,783.1. That stretches its rise on the week to 138.1, or almost 3 per cent.

Dealers reported selling of the life insurers before the start of trading on Monday of Norwich Union. **Legal & General** fell 9½p to 446½p, **Prudential Corporation** 6p to 636½p, and **London & Manchester** 3½p to 434p.

The Norwich issue is expected to be heavily oversubscribed, with institutional investors left desperately short of stock. On the grey market IG Index was quoting 340p to 350p, but some brokers say the price could open even higher. The Norwich will be admitted *to the list of top 100 constituents* later in the year.

Energy Group touched 663½p before ending 2p lighter at 646p after PacifiCorp made its move and offered 695½p a share. The total value of the deal is £5.9 billion. But there are growing *fears among brokers that the* Government may refer the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Elsewhere in the sector, brokers reported further selective support with **Southern** rising 4p to 437p, **ScottishPower** 8p to 397p, **National Power** 5p to 520p, and **PowerGen** 2p to 700p.

Rank Group was the worst performing stock among the top 100 companies, with the price falling 40½p to 385p, its lowest level since March 1995, as a total of £338 million was wiped off the group's stock market value of £3.55 billion.

It follows a trading update from the group highlighting a downturn at its video duplication business. ABN Amro *Hoare Govett reacted by wip*ing £11 million from its profit forecast for the current year of £343 million. It was followed by both Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Lehman Brothers. The setback comes just days after the group announced the sale of its remaining stake in Rank Xerox for £1 billion to Xerox Corporation.

British Steel was a firm market, climbing 7¼p to 163¼p before full-year figures on Monday that are expected to show a sharp downturn in pre-tax profits from £1.1 billion to £476 million. Brokers say much of the setback will be down to a strong pound.

There was some pain at **Tilbury Douglas** as Cazenove and UBS tried to place a large seller. Philipp Holzmann has sold its entire stake of 9.93 *million shares, or 29.9* per cent, at 575p. Judging by the reaction of the share price, down 72½p at 670p, after touching 647½p, it looked as if most of the stock was still overhanging the market.

Vickers hardened 7p at 216p after announcing plans to sell its Swedish medical products division, while **Johnson Matthey** continued to reflect *on this week's bumper profits* with a rise of 24½p at 547½p. That stretches the lead during the past two days to 85½p.

News of a bid approach lifted **Albert Fisher** 12¼p from a low of 34¼p to end at 46½p. The food producer headed by Stephen Walls, former boss of Plessey and Arjo Wiggins, said it was in talks that could lead to a bid. At these levels, the group is valued at £344 million. A string of possible suitors have been reeled off by speculators including **Geest**, steady at 282½p, **Fyffes**, unchanged at 89p, Royal Ahold *in The Netherlands and Dole* in the US.

Burton Group rose 4¼p to 128½p after dismissing claims that John Hoerner, chief executive, was on the point of resigning. **Laura Ashley**, the troubled soft furnishing group, rounded off poor week *by hitting yet another new low* with a loss of 1p at 77p. A profits warning and recent high level departures have undermined City confidence.

Brokers began reducing their numbers for **Logica** after the company said that profits for the the current year would be below market expectations because of currency factors and recruitment problems. The shares ended down 95½p at 755p. **CMG** was down 37½p at £12.57½. **Misys** 32½p at £13.85, and **Sema** 84p at £11.73½.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: There was a further steepening of the yield curve after the market faild to capitalise on a subdued set of US producer price figures. Switching out of longs *into shorter dated issues was* again reported, leaving the overall picture mixed at the close.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt closed unchanged at £114⅛ as a total of 62,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £⅛ to £108²⁷⁄₃₂, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks firmer at £103⁹⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street stocks were strongly higher, extending a week-long rally. At midday, the Dow Jones *industrial average* was up 58.81 points to 7,770.28.

From left: Nigel a Brassard, Benedict Morgan, Tim Wise, *all of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, and John Paynter, of* Cazenove, check on the institutions going for Norwich Union

Jarvis touched 320p before ending 2½p down at 316½p with speculators awaiting news of its next acquisition. Word is that it is about to pay up to £60 million for Scottish Rail Maintenance. A heavily discounted one-for-five rights issue is envisaged to help finance the deal. Next stop for the shares could be 400p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Treatt	139p	-14p	Profits setback
Yorkshire-Tyne Tees	£11.75	+68p	Granada bids £11.75
Acal	411½p	-60½p	Profits warning
GEC	376p	+32p	Lehman sets target price of 400p
Amersham	£16.06½	+256½p	Pharmacia and Upjohn deal
High-Point	58p	+30½p	Restructuring plans
Energy Group	646p	+84½p	PacifiCorp bids 695½p
Rank Group	385p	-66½p	Trading update
Albert Fisher	46½p	+10¾p	Bid approach

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	7770.28	(+58.81)
S&P Composite	891.98	(+8.50)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	20528.35	(-36.11)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	14112.55	(+188.21)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	846.09	(+6.73)
Sydney:		
AO	2655.3	(+17.2)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	3744.44	(+36.45)
Singapore:		
Straits	1990.12	(-0.56)
Brussels:		
General	13616.60	(+34.46)
Paris:		
CAC-40	2808.52	(+48.25)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	1136.10	(+4.70)
London:		
FT 30	3077.4	(+14.9)
FTSE 100	4783.1	(+25.7)
FTSE 250	4586.1	(+40.9)
FTSE 350	2312.8	(+14.1)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2441.69	(+35.13)
FTSE All-Share	2266.11	(+13.12)
FTSE Non Financials	2288.79	(+16.36)
FTSE Fixed Interest	120.99	(+0.18)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.79	(-0.05)
Bargains	53077	
SEAQ Volume	957.4m	
US$	1.6350	(+0.0008)
German Mark	2.8415	(+0.0245)
Exchange Index	100.3	(+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
£:ECU	1.4407	
£:SDR	1.1745	
RPI	156.9 May (2.6%)	Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.3 May (2.5%)	Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aston Villa	790	+ 5
Caradon B	99½	...
Gallaher	301½	+ 10
Halifax	754	- ½
Heart of Midlothian	113½	...
Intl Biotech C	99	...
Longbridge Intl	117½	...
Royalblue Group	210½	- 1
SBS Group	117½	...
Topps Tiles	112½	...
Versalite Group	3½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Pillar Props n/p (205)	17	...
Tadpole Tech n/p (10)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Eng China Clay	210p (+23p)
Antofagasta	475p (+47½p)
G Wimpey	148p (+10½p)
FKI	193p (+13p)
Redland	362½p (+23p)
Yates Bros	527½p (+30p)
GUS	701p (+38½p)
Thorn	173½p (+9p)
Bodycote	777½p (+35p)
Medeva	277½p (+12p)
BAA	593p (+25½p)
Innovative Tech	356½p (+13p)
JJB Sports	475p (+20p)
Delta	319p (+11½p)
Wolseley	508½p (+17p)
Flextech	615p (+20p)
Cable Wireless	561½p (+18p)
Booker	307½p (+9p)
Laporte	710p (+20p)
Boots	754½p (+19p)
BPB	348½p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Rank Group	385p (-40½p)
SEC Group	119p (-8½p)
Adam & Harvey	307½p (-10½p)
Denby Group	197½p (-6p)
Shield Diag	545p (-15p)
W Canning	303½p (-8p)
Waddington	300p (-7½p)
Hammerson	495½p (-12p)
Carlton Comm	506½p (-9p)
BT	462½p (-7½p)

Closing Prices Page 39

TEMPUS

Fisher on the menu

THE only surprise about the bid talks at Albert Fisher is that no one has taken a pot shot at this company before now. Fisher's share price has been in steady decline throughout four years of an alleged turnround. Before news of the bid approach leaked to the market, Fisher had slipped to a new low of 34p, giving the shares a remarkable dividend yield of almost 14 per cent. Such levels are usually only seen before financially stretched companies are forced to cut their dividend, yet Fisher insists that it is quite comfortable with the present payout.

The City allowed Fisher shares to slide after enduring a diet of disappointments, often blamed on the weather. The question is, how *much is the company really worth?* Even at yesterday's closing share price of 46½p, Fisher is still valued at less than a fifth of its £1.7 billion of annual sales. However, hopes of an offer close to 100p a share look wide of the mark. Far from restoring the profitability Fisher enjoyed in its heyday, Stephen Walls's tenure *has seen substantial* erosion in operating margins. It was scarcely encouraging recently to hear Neil England, Fisher's newish chief executive, reel off a host of *management changes* the company still needs to make. At the moment, 60p seems to be a more realistic target.

The potential bidder is said to be a quoted *foreign food manufacturer*, yet Fisher's strong cashflow would also make it a suitable candidate for a break-up bid from financial investors. No asset-stripper has yet emerged, but shareholders should be in no rush to take the price available in the market. Relief from Fisher's troubles may finally be at hand.

Logica

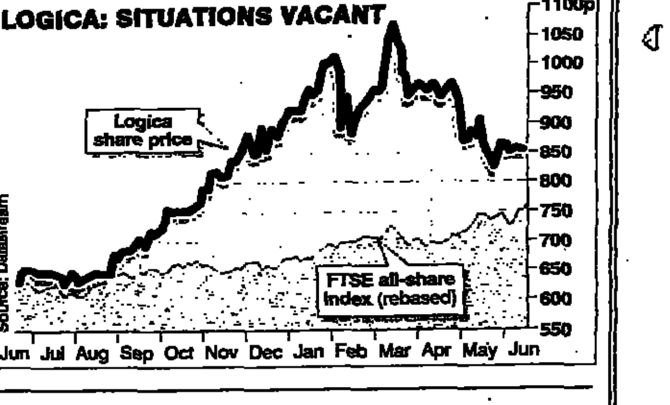
THE IT industry is riding the crest of a wave; a message made clear by Logica and its share price fall.

Of course, Logica's statement said nothing at all about the market peaking. Instead, the chief executive predicted better revenue growth after a hiccup in 1996-97. The current year shortfall, forecast by *analysts to be about £1 million*, relates to the strength of sterling and difficulties with recruitment. The currency effect is almost entirely due to the translation of continental profits: Logica has been expanding eastwards and almost a third of its business now comes from abroad.

Currencies bring swings and roundabouts. More worrying is the heat in Logica's core UK market where the company is now forced to push work in progress into next year because of lack of staff. IT skills are in high demand due to banks converting their systems to *EMU and the millennium* bug. Industry wide, staff turnover has soared to 20-25 per cent and Logica admits to 17 per cent annual attrition, up from 11 per cent two years ago. Poaching is commonplace and a university graduate can *command* a salary of up to £19,000.

Logica insists that higher staff costs are being passed on to customers. That may be the case this year, but high fixed-cost businesses, such as advertising or financial services, have a knack of building up overheads quickly only to shed them slowly in a downturn.

LOGICA: SITUATIONS VACANT



Source: Datastream

English China Clays

JUBILATION over the recovery by English China Clays could be premature. The company reports modest volume improvements and sizeable margin gains in the first five months of the year but the question is: gain over what? The comparable period in 1996 was simply awful, *with a 21 per cent decline in* volumes in Europe and a profits slump in America. Overall, profits in the first half of the previous year were down 46 per cent.

ECC's minerals business was then earning a 4 per cent return on sales, not a stiff *target to beat and the com*pany has been in almost permanent restructuring, with £85 million of asset writedowns and a £10 million restructuring charge in 1996. The company's Middle Georgia Kaolin assets alone suffered a £58 million write-off.

ECC claims that the margin gains in the last five months are not simply a payoff from lower depreciation on the asset base but stem from lower costs. That *is reassuring but investors* hoping for growth will be more wary of the volume gains, which could be reversed in the accident-prone paper industry to which ECC is a supplier. There is little sign of price improvement and ECC still needs to cope *with a surge in kaolin sup*plies from mines in Brazil. This looks as though ECC's health is improving but the *patient is not cured.*

Rank

ANDREW TEARE'S strategy at *Rank* was warmly welcomed last year but change at the helm is delivering little in returns. Teare has sold about £1.8 billion in non-core assets, including Rank Xerox and the engineering and coach businesses, but patience ran out abruptly yesterday when it *became apparent that the* ship is changing course more slowly than expected. The shares' recovery premium has largely disappeared.

A slowdown in the Ameri*can video duplication* business was singled out as the most disappointing development, but the truth is that none of the high-profile businesses, such as the Hard Rock Cafés and the bingo halls, grew particularly smartly. Rank has no choice *but to continue pouring* money into them in the hope that momentum will pick up next year. It should also consider increasing the size of the proposed £250 million share buyback programme.

The question is whether the shares, now at their lowest level *in two years*, are worth a punt. Probably not. Rank is turning into a slow burn and those with the patience for recovery plays might have more luck at Whitbread, another big name in the leisure sector.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	1116-1114	Sep	1158-1154
Sep	1129-1128	Dec	1169-1165
Dec	1120-1119	Mar	1180-1178
Mar	1126-1125	May	1200-1185
May	1137-1134		
Jul	1150-1145		Volume: 2801

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1759-1755	Mar	1780 SLR
Sep	1787-1795	May	unq
Nov	1790 BID	Jul	—
Jan	1790 SLR		Volume: 4963

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	314.5-13.7
Spot: 330.5		May	314.3-12.2
Aug	323.8-24.2	Aug	313.5-11.0
Oct	317.0-16.5	Oct	306.5-03.5
Dec	314.5-14.0		Volume: 1552

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on June 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	101.66	115.96	92.17
(+/-)	+0.45	+1.24	-0.08
Eng/Wales	101.67	115.84	91.67
(+/-)	+0.41	+4.45	0.71
(%)	+10.0	-5.0	-1.0
Scotland	99.62	118.95	93.97
(+/-)	+3.37	-0.83	+2.17
(%)	-39.0	+3.0	-6.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.20	+0.30
Brent 15 day (Jul)	17.80	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Aug)	17.95	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	18.90	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	19.15	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	194 (-4)	196 (-4)
Gasoil EEC	165 (+3)	168 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	84 (n/c)	86 (+1)
Naphtha	193 (-3)	195 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Aug	164.50-64.75	Nov	171.00-71.25
Sep	166.50-66.75	Dec	172.00-72.25
Oct	169.00-69.25		Vol: 10154

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jul	17.65 BID	Oct	18.19-18.20
Aug	17.84-17.85	Nov	18.34 BID
Sep	18.00-18.05		Vol: 47289

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jul	81.75	Sep	81.50
Sep	86.50	Nov	84.50
Nov	89.25	Jan	86.50
Jan	91.25	Mar	88.50
Mar	93.25	May	90.00
Volume: 427		Volume: 62	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	40.0
Mar		[illegible]
Apr	80.0	79.0
		Volume: 99

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Jul 72.25-72.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jun 97	1290	1275	1285
Jul 97	1210	1190	1200
Aug 97	1200	1185	1190
Oct 97	1355	1347	1350
Vol: 124 lots		Open interest: 2775	

Index 1256 -4

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2673.5-2674.5	2563.0-2564.0	247425
Lead ($/tonne)	620.00-621.00	637.00-621.00	141883
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1343.0-1343.5	1364.0-1365.0	397053
Tin ($/tonne)	5580.0-5590.0	5620.0-5625.0	47710
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1562.0-1562.5	1590.0-1591.0	1777250
Nickel ($/tonne)	7195.0-7205.0	7280.0-7290.0	75290

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Alld Dom	420	22	32½	38	10	18	24
(*425½)	460	10	16	21	37½	42	54
ASDA	120	6½	9	12½	2	5½	7
(*124½)	130	2	4	6	7	11	12
Boots	750	13	39½	43½	29½	37	44
(*757)	800	3	15	26	69½	67	72
Br Airways	700	42	64	78½	9½	17½	24
(*733½)	750	13	38	51	29½	39	46
BP	750	24	43	57½	13	29	35
(*757)	800	7½	21	35	45	56½	63
Br Steel	160	6	9	11½	4	11	13½
(*162½)	180	1½	3	5	26	26½	28
C & W	550	27½	48	60½	16	29	34
(*540)	600	9½	26	38	46½	56	61
CU	700	37	56	66	21	40	57½
(*706½)	750	11	35	52½	51	78	80
ICI	850	31	46	65½	12	32	39
(*863)	900	10½	24	41	41	59	67
Land Sec	850	37½	60	71½	6	19	22
(*877)	900	10	31½	44	28	36	45½
M & S	500	39½	52	61	1½	7½	12
(*534)	550	9	22	32	20½	29	32
Nat West	750	59	82	104	9½	34	43
(*796½)	800	27½	56	70	29	57	67
Safeway plc	360	12½	25½	34	9	15	21
(*365)	390	2	12½	21	29	32½	37½
Sainsbury	360	21	31	38	4½	9	14
(*374)	390	5	15½	22	19½	24	29
Shell	1200	73	103½	123	5½	26	36
(*1258)	1250	39	72	95	16	46½	58
Smkl Bch	1100	78	122	100	32	54	69
(*1101)	1150	19½	39	76	62½	82	96
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1900	81	136	175	29	70½	86
(*1940)	2000	32	97	128	79	119½	134
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAT Ind	550	53	66	80	7½	21	30
(*595)	600	23	38	54	26	45	53
Vodafone	280	22	32	39½	3	9	13
(*297)	300	10	20	29	10	17½	22
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Grnd Met	550	32	46	55	17	26½	26½
(*566)	600	10	25	29	46	54	53
Ladbroke	240	18	22	28	6	10	12
(*249)	260	8	13½	18	16	20	22
Utd Bisc	200	19	21	25	5	9	9
(*211)	220	7	11	15	14	15	19

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAA	550	38	49½	60	5½	13	15½
(*587½)	600	9	21½	33	29	35½	41½
Thames W	650	35	43	51½	20	29½	31
(*674)	700	10	21	30	51	59	68
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	180	16	20	26	6	9	11
(*199)	200	6	11½	17	15	19½	21
Br Aero	1350	92½	106	140½	29	47½	57½
(*1390)	1400	59½	81	113	51	71	81
Br Telecm	460	19	23	29	25	30	35½
(*462½)	500	5	9½	12½	58	59	61
Cadbury	500	48	56	60	4	11	14½
(*537)	550	17	26	37	22	41½	35½
Guinness	550	45	57½	60½	9½	20	20
(*590)	600	17	30	30½	32	43	43
GEC	360	22	30	33½	10½	14½	19
(*376)	390	7	15	20	27	29½	35
Hanson	300	36	41	48	3½	9	12
(*328½)	330	16	23	31	14	21	21½
LASMO	260	18	29	34	7	10½	13
(*270½)	280	9	19	24½	15½	21	22½
LucasVarity	200	16	20½	25	6	9	11
(*208)	220	6½	11½	15½	16	19½	21
Pilkingtn	120	10	—	—	4½	—	—
(*127½)	130	5½	—	—	10	—	—
Prudential	600	56	68	85	12	27	32
(*636)	650	29½	41	59½	28	50½	55½
Redland	360	19	31	38	13½	21½	25½
(*362½)	390	7	18	25	32	37½	40½
R-Royce	260	15	26	32	9	12½	17
(*267½)	280	6½	16	22½	19	23	26½
Tesco	360	35	41½	49	5	9½	12½
(*386)	390	15½	22½	32	16	21½	25
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4783)

	4650	4700	4750	4800	4850	4900
Calls						
Jun	155	108½	67	33½	13½	4½
Jul	206	167	130	101½	74	53½
Aug	227	190½	158½	125½	102	79
Sep	259½	220½	190	157½	131	108
Dec	—	334	—	244	—	190½
Puts						
Jun	3	7	15	33	65½	117
Jul	27	39	65	86	111	141
Aug	61	73½	93	114	138	167
Sep	74	90½	110½	130	156	183
Dec	—	130	—	167	—	237

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Abbey Natl	850	53	84	111	11	37	45
(*895)	900	14	62	85	31	55	66
Amstrad	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1200	56	111	149	19	50	66
(*1249)	1250	47	85	123	34	74	92
Natl Pwr	500	30	46	55	7	16	23
(*520)	550	8	23	29	34	42	49½
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo Well	1250	66	90	121	20	52	61
(*1294½)	1300	32	64	95	41	76	86
HSBC	1900	124	176	227	24	67	96
(*1997)	1950	72	122	175	64	117	150
Reuters	650	35	73	92	4½	17	26
(*690)	700	22	43	63	21	37	44½
Royal & Sun	460	41	55	64	5	16	21½
(*495)	500	16	31	42	20	33	37½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Blue Circ	420	26	40	56	6	12	16
(*446)	460	14	24	33	27½	30	34
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Kingfishr	700	52	65	79	13	19	26
(*735)	750	23	37	51	41	41½	49
	Series	Jun			Jun		
Br Gas	240	4	—	—	—	—	—
(*255)	260	27	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Dixons	500	16½	35	47	1	19	28
(*517)	550	0	14	27	32	47	57
EMI Group	1150	44	76	105	2	43	63
(*1190)	1200	12	52	80	19	67	77
Tarmac	120	7	12	15	0	5	6
(*127)	130	1	6	10	5	8	11
Hillsdwn	180	4	11	—	1	8	—
(*183)	200	0	3	—	17	17	—
Lonrho	130	5	10	14	1	5	7
(*134)	140	0	6	9	6	10	12
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	7	12	17	3	14	16
(*267)	280	0	5	9	15	26	30
Lloyds TSB	600	43	67	82	1	21	26
(*642)	650	7	40	57	15	42	51
Scot Pwr	340	9	22	25	2	27	24
(*346)	360	0	12	17	23	41	43
Unilever	1700	20	77	109	10	42	89
(*1709)	1800	0	37	62	92	101	113

June 13 1997 Tot: 49781 Call: 24919
Put: 24862 FTSE Call: 12124 Put: 9826
*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 97	114-11	114-21	114-07	114-16	736
Previous open interest: 157254	Sep 97	114-03	114-10	113-25	114-04	62378
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 97	101.31	101.73	101.22	101.57	230405
Previous open interest: 234372	Dec 97	100.40	100.60	100.40	100.62	1601
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 97	131.76	132.09	131.10	131.79	71053
Previous open interest: 85327	Dec 97				104.74	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	123.85	124.13	123.60	124.10	3303
	Dec 97	123.01	123.32	123.01	123.40	133
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.29	93.29	93.28	93.29	6472
	Sep 97	93.14	93.16	93.13	93.15	14492
Previous open interest: 563611	Dec 97	92.98	93.01	92.95	92.99	20330
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.87	96.89	96.87	96.87	13252
Previous open interest: 1510543	Sep 97	96.85	96.85	96.83	96.83	36583
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	93.18	93.20	93.14	93.18	16765
Previous open interest: 534804	Sep 97	93.42	93.46	93.36	93.40	31004
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97	99.11	99.11	99.11	99.11	105
	Mar 98				98.89	0
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.74	98.75	98.68	98.70	6249
Previous open interest: 152523	Sep 97	98.63	98.65	98.54	98.58	1140
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.85	95.86	95.84	95.85	1540
Previous open interest: 34250	Sep 97	95.88	95.89	95.85	95.88	1154
FTSE 100	Jun 97	4790.0	4811.0	4776.0	4801.0	15986
Previous open interest: 54396	Sep 97	4819.0	4841.5	4813.0	4834.0	4090

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6[illegible] Finance Hse 6[illegible]
Discount Market Loans: O'night high: 6[illegible] Low 5[illegible] Week fixed: 6[illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible]; Sell: 2 mth 6[illegible]; 3 mth 6[illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6[illegible], close [illegible]					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.65	5.75	5.98
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applets £1,540m allotted: £200m. Bids: £98.42% received: [illegible]; Last week: £98.42% received: [illegible]. Ave rate: £6.31108% last wk £6.33325%. Next week £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $341.10-341.40 **Close:** $341.60-342.10 **High:** $341.60-342.10
Low: $341.10-341.60 **AM:** $341.20 **PM:** $341.40

Krugerrand: $341.00-343.00 (£209.00-211.00)

Platinum: $437.00 (£266.26) **Silver:** $4.74 (£2.905) **Palladium:** $202.00 (£123.09)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for June 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.1655-3.1980	3.1955-3.1980	1[illegible]pr	2[illegible]pr
Brussels	58.070-58.708	58.610-58.708	18-13pr	52-45pr
Copenhagen	10.711-10.826	10.817-10.826	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	1.0709-1.0813	1.0761-1.0804	5pr-1ds	12-5pr
Frankfurt	2.8140-2.8432	2.8411-2.8432	[illegible]pr	2[illegible]pr
Lisbon	284.39-287.10	286.91-287.10	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Madrid	237.82-239.81	239.02-239.80	27-17pr	92-74pr
Milan	2763.9-2792.6	2789.9-2792.6	2-1ds	6-2ds
Montreal	2.2521-2.2572	2.2541-2.2559	0.04-0.01pr	1.35-1.27pr
New York	1.6294-1.6360	1.6351-1.6358	0.125-0.105pr	0.306-0.337pr
Oslo	11.763-11.890	11.883-11.890	[illegible]pr	1-[illegible]pr
Paris	9.4820-9.5956	9.5858-9.5956	2[illegible]pr	7[illegible]pr
Stockholm	12.630-12.719	12.701-12.719	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	186.04-187.65	187.40-187.70	1-[illegible]pr	2[illegible]pr
Vienna	19.804-20.026	19.992-20.026	[illegible]pr	1[illegible]pr
Zurich	2.3476-2.3673	2.3647-2.3673	1[illegible]pr	3[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3297-1.3306
Austria	12.19-12.20
Belgium (Com)	35.76-35.80
Canada	1.3778-1.3783
Denmark	6.6005-6.6025
France	5.8480-5.8485
Germany	1.7332-1.7342
Hong Kong	7.7415-7.7425
Ireland	1.5155-1.5175
Italy	1702.0-1703.0
Japan	114.63-114.68
Malaysia	2.5128-2.5138
Netherlands	1.9500-1.9510
Norway	7.2503-7.2553
Portugal	175.20-175.30
Singapore	1.4272-1.4282
Spain	146.52-146.57
Sweden	7.7635-7.7710
Switzerland	1.4431-1.4441

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6360-1.6387
Australia dollar	2.1737-2.1764
Bahrain dinar	0.6090-0.6210
Brazil real*	1.7537-1.7582
China yuan	13.37-13.67
Cyprus pound	0.8190-0.8290
Finland markka	8.4108-8.526
Greece drachma	444.0-451.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.6613-12.6630
India rupee	57.97-59.03
Indonesia rupiah	3927.0-3945.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4850-0.4950
Malaysia ringgit	4.1074-4.1116
New Zealand dollar	2.3660-2.3708
Pakistan rupee	65.35 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8775-6.0115
Singapore dollar	2.3324-2.3355
S Africa rand (com)	7.2007-7.302
U A E dirham	5.9306-6.054

Barclays Bank GTS • *Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,000	Land Secs	2,300
ASDA Gp	6,500	Legal & Gn	4,400
Abbey Ntl	5,500	Lloyds TSB	9,300
Allied Dom	2,600	LucasVarity	3,000
AB Foods	876	Marks Spr	11,300
BAA	4,300	Mercury Asl	860
BAT Inds	8,300	NatWst Bk	1,700
BG	11,300	Nat Grid	7,700
BOC	2,400	Nat Power	2,500
BP	6,400	Next	1,200
BSkyB	1,300	Orange	1,400
BTR	10,000	*P & O*	4,000
BT	16,800	Pearson	2,800
Bk of Scot	3,400	PowerGen	4,500
Barclays	4,100	Prudential	5,100
Bass	3,600	RMC	877
Blue Circle	4,000	Railtrack	1,400
Boots	11,300	Rank Gp	11,000
BAe	1,900	*Reckitt Col*	1,300
BA	2,000	Reed Intl	2,800
British Land	1,700	Rentokil	6,300
Brit Steel	9,300	Reuters	4,000
Burmah Cstl	1,300	Rio Tinto	1,000
Burton	42,400	Rolls Royce	9,600
Cable Wire	9,100	Royal & Sun	3,500
Cadbury	3,700	Royal Bk Sct	2,300
Carlton Cms	4,500	Safeway	5,000
Centrica	17,900	Sainsbury	4,000
Cm Union	1,400	Schroders	217
Dixons	3,700	Scot & New	1,600
EMI	603	Scot Power	3,700
Energy Gp	12,200	*Svrn Trent*	7,300
Enterpr Oil	1,600	Shell Trans	4,700
GKN	1,300	Siebe	3,400
GRE	1,800	SmKl Bch	5,100
GUS	5,000	Smith Nph	4,200
Gen Acc	1,500	Smiths Inds	1,900
Gen Elec	6,800	Std Chartd	3,000
Glaxo Well	4,000	TI Gp	1,500
Granada	2,300	Tate & Lyle	1,000
Grand Met	6,200	Tesco	5,700
Guinness	2,000	Thames W	904
HSBC	2,600	Tomkins	4,600
Hanson	2,300	Unilever	935
Hays	970	*Utd Utilities*	3,300
ICI	3,500	Utd News	957
Imp Tob	5,100	Vodafone	5,700
Kingfisher	2,500	Whitbread	946
LASMO	2,000	Wolseley	1,800
Ladbroke	4,000	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

	Jun 13 midday	Jun 12 close
AMP Inc	40¾	40½
AMR Corp	93¼	93½
AT & T	37¼	37¼
Abbott Labs	66⅞	66⅝
Advanced Micro	37½	37¼
Aetna Life	111½	111
Ahmanson (HF)	45½	45⅛
Air Prod & Chem	82½	82¼
AirTouch Comm	28½	28¼
Albertson's	37¼	37½
Alcan Alumnm	37½	37¼
Allied Signal	82	82
Alum Co of Am	78½	77½
Amerada Hess	55½	54½
Amer El Power	42	41½
Amer Express	74½	73½
Amer Genl Corp	47½	47½
Amer Home Pr	79½	78½
Amer Intl	148½	147
Amer Stores	47½	47
Amer Standard	48½	48½
Ameritech	66½	66
Amgen	63½	62½
Amoco	89½	88½
Andrew Corp	24	25
Anheuser-Busch	42½	43
Apple Computer	16	16½
Archer Daniels	20½	20½
Armco	[illegible]	[illegible]
Armstrong Wrld	70½	70½
Asarco	32½	31½
Atl Richfield	147½	146
Atmel Corp	29½	29½
Auto Data Prn	46½	47
Avery Dennison	40	39
Avon Products	73½	71½
Baker Hughes	37½	37½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26
Banc One	45½	45½
BankAmerica	130½	129½
Bank of NY	46	46
Bankers Tr NY	[illegible]	86½
Barnett Banks	53½	52
Bausch & Lomb	41½	41
Baxter Intl	54	54½
Bectn Dicknsn	52½	52½
Bell Atlantic	76½	75½
BellSouth	47½	47½
Black & Decker	36½	36
Block (H&R)	34½	34½
Boeing	57½	57
Boise Cascade	36½	36
Boston Scien	60½	59½
Bristol Myr Sq	76½	75
Browning Ferris	34	35
Brunswick	30½	30½
Burlington Nthn	86½	85½
CMS Energy Corp	34½	34
CPC Intl	84½	83½
CSX	54½	53½
Campbell Soup	50½	50
Can Pacific	27½	27
Carolina Pwr	35½	35½
Case Corp	61	61½
Caterpillar	107½	105
Central & SW	20½	20
Champion Intl	53½	52½
Chase Manhat	100½	100½
Chevron Corp	74½	74
Chrysler	32½	32½
Chubb Corp	66½	67
Cigna Corp	184½	184½
Citicorp	118½	119
Clorox	131½	132½
Coastal Corp	51½	51½
Coca Cola	70½	70
Coca Cola Ent	23½	23½
Colgate Palm	65½	65½
Columbia Gas	66½	66½
Columbia/HCA	37½	37
Compaq Comp	98½	96½
Comp Ass Intl	56½	56½
Conagra	62½	62
Cons Edison	30	30
Cons Nat Gas	53½	53½
Cooper Inds	53½	53
Corestates	57½	57½
Corning Inc	55	55
Crestar Finl	41	40½
Crown Cork	54	53½
Dana Corp	36½	38
Dayton Hudson	53½	53½
Deere	57½	56½
Delta Air Lines	87	87½
Deluxe Corp	32½	33
Digital Equip	39½	38½
Dillard Dept St	34	34½
Disney (Walt)	82½	81½
Dominion Res	35½	36
Donnelley (RR)	36½	36½
Dover Corp	61½	60½
Dow Chemical	89½	89
Dow Jones	41½	41
Dresser	39½	39
Duke Power	46½	45½
Dun & Bradstreet	26	26
Du Pont	62½	115½
Eastman Chem	60½	60
Eastman Kodak	81½	81
Eaton Corp	87	[illegible]
Edison Int	24	23½
Elect Data Sys	41½	41½
Emerson Elec	56½	56
Engelhard Corp	22	22
Enron Corp	42	41½
Entergy	26	26½
Ethyl Corp	9½	9½
Exxon	62	61½
FMC Corp	70½	71½
FPL Group	47½	47½
Federal Express	55	54½
First Bk Sys	84	83½
Fleet Finl Grp	63½	62½
Fluor Corp	54½	54½
Ford Motor	38½	38½
Fortune Brands	33½	33½
GTE Corp	46½	46
Gannett	96	96½
Gap Inc Del	38½	38½
Gencorp	21½	21½
Gen Dynamics	76	76½
Gen Electric	65½	65½
Gen Mills	65½	64
Gen Motor	57½	57
Gen Reinsurance	187½	186½
Gen Signal	46½	45½
Genuine Parts	34½	34½
Georgia Pac	89½	89½
Gillette	96	97½
Glaxo Welle ADR	41	42½
Goodrich (BF)	40½	40½
Goodyear Tire	62½	61½
Gt Atl Pac Tea	27½	28
Great West Fin	52½	52½
Halliburton	77½	77½
Harcourt General	49½	49
Heinz (HJ)	45	44½
Hercules	47½	47½
Hershey Foods	57½	57½
Hewlett Packard	53½	52½
Hilton Hotels	26	26½
Home Depot	66½	66½
Homestake Mng	13½	13½
Honeywell	77	76½
Household Intl	106	105
Houston Inds	21½	21½
Humana	24½	23½
ITT Corp	61½	59½
Ikon Office	32½	31
Illinois Tool	52½	51½
Illinova	21½	21
INCO	32	31
Ingersoll Rand	61	59½
Inland Steel	26	25
Intel Corp	142	143½
IBM	86½	86½
Intl Flav & Fr	48½	48½
Intl Paper	51½	51½
James River Va	36	35½
Johnsn & Jhnsn	65½	65½
Kellogg	84	83½
Kerr-McGee	64½	64
Kimberly-Clark	54	54½
Kmart	13½	13½
Knight-Ridder	46	46½
Lilly (Eli)	104½	104½
Limited Inc	19½	19½
Lincoln Nat	67½	67½
Litton	46½	48½
Liz Claiborne	47½	46½
Lockheed Martin	95½	96½
Louisiana Pac	25½	24½
MCI Comm	40½	40½
Manpower Inc	40½	40½
Marriott Int	61½	60½
Marsh & McLnn	130½	130
Masco Corp	40	39
May Dept St	49½	48½
Maytag Corp	27½	27½
McDonalds	50½	50
McDonnell D	70½	71
McGraw Hill	57½	58½
Mead Corp	67½	67
Medtronic	81½	80½
Mellon Bk	46	45½
Merck Inc	96	97
Merrill Lynch	60½	59½
Micrsoft	126½	125½
Minnesota Mng	96	95½
Mobil Corp	140½	139½
Monsanto	46½	46½
Morgan (JP)	109½	109½
Motorola Inc	69½	69½
Natl Semi	27½	27
Natl Service Ind	46½	45½
Navistar Int	17½	17½
NY Times A	41½	40
Newmont Mng	39½	39
Niag Mohawk	8½	8½
Nike B	59½	58½
NL Industries	13½	13½
Noram Energy	15½	15½
Nordstrom	48½	49½
Norfolk Sthrn	96½	97½
Nthn States Pwr	49½	49½
Norwest Corp	56½	57½
Nynex Corp	55½	57½
Occidental Pet	24½	24½
Ohio Edison	21½	21½
Oracle	53½	49½
Oryx Energy Co	21½	21½
Owens Corning	44	43½
PPG Industries	59½	59½
PMI Group	59½	58½
PNC Bank	43½	42½
PP&L Res	20½	20
Paccar Inc	51	51
Pacificorp	22½	22½
Pac Enterprises	33½	33½
Pall Corp	23½	24
Parker Hannifin	57½	57
Peco Energy	20	20
Penney (JC)	53½	52½
Pennzoil	60½	59½
Pepsico	38½	38½
Pfizer	110½	109½
Pharm & Upjhn	35½	35½
Phelps Dodge	88½	87½
Philip Morris	46	44½
Phillips Pet	43½	43½
Pitney Bowes	72½	72½
Polaroid	51½	51½
Procter & Gmbl	142½	147½
Providian	59½	59½
Pub Serv E & G	24½	24½
Quaker Oats	42½	42½
Ralston Purina	86½	85½
Raychem Corp	72½	72½
Raytheon	52½	52
Reebok Intl	42½	41½
Reynolds Metals	73½	72½
Rockwell Intl	61½	62½
Rohm & Haas	89½	89½
Royal Dutch	209½	206
Rubbermaid	29½	29½
SBC Comms	59½	59½
Safeco Corp	45½	45½
St Pauls Cos	79	79½
Salomon Inc	57½	56½
Sara Lee Corp	43½	43
Schering Plough	47½	47½
Schlumberger	119½	118
Seagram	41½	41½
Sears Roebuck	54½	55½
Shell Trans	125½	122½
Sherwin Wllms	31½	31
Skyline Corp	24½	24½
Snap-On-Tools	40½	39½
Southern Co	22½	22
Sprint Corp	51½	50½
Stanley Works	44½	43½
Sun Company	31½	31½
Sun Microsys	34½	34½
Suntrust	50½	50½
Supervalu	36½	36
Sysco Corp	37½	37½
TRW Inc	55½	55
TCC Inds	2½	2½
TIG Hldgs	31½	30½
Tandem Comp	14½	14½
Tandy Corp	55½	54½
Temple Inland	61½	61½
Tenet Healthcare	29½	29½
Tenneco	46½	45½
Texaco	112	111½
Texas Inst	91½	81½
Texas Utilities	33½	33½
Textron	63½	64
Thermo Elect	37½	37½
Time Warner	49½	49½
Times-Mirror A	56½	56½
Timken	36½	35½
Torchmark	71½	71½
Toys R Us	32½	32½
Transamerica	96½	96½
Travelers	65½	62½
Tribune	47½	46½
Tyco Intl	66½	65
UST Inc	29	29
UAL	72½	72½
US Inds	37½	37½
US West Comm	36½	37
US West Media	22	22½
USAirways Group	34½	34½
USX Marathon	30½	29½
Unicom	22½	22½
Unilever NV	204½	203½
Union Camp	54½	54½
Union Carbide	49½	46½
Union Pacific	69½	66½
Unisys Corp	6½	6½
USF&G Corp	23½	23½
US Life	52½	52½
United Tech	85½	85
Unocal Corp	41½	40½
VF Corp	87½	85½
Wal-Mart Stores	31½	31½
Warner-Lambert	105½	106½
Waste Mngmt	32½	32½
Wells Fargo	277½	276
Westinghouse El	22½	21½
Weyerhaeuser	54½	54½
Whirlpool	52½	53
Whitman	24½	24½
Winn Dixie	41½	41½
Woolworth	26½	26½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	64½	64½
Xerox	72½	71½
Zenith Elect	12½	11½

BID SPECULATION 30

Will Halifax go for the Nationwide?

WEEKEND
MONEY

OWN GOAL? 36

The ups and downs of S&F's football fund

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

ANGUS MEWSE

Battle for £60bn surplus rages on

Government under pressure to take action over company pensions, says Sara McConnell

Angry pensioners this week joined union leaders and an eminent pensions judge in demands for government action to establish once and for all who owns the estimated £60 billion of surplus funds in Britain's company pension schemes.

Successive governments have failed to tackle the issue, in spite of growing numbers of high-profile challenges to employers over use of surpluses built up in schemes during the boom years of the 1980s.

National Grid, National Power, National Bus, National Freight Corporation and Unilever are just some of the industrial giants locked in battle with their employees over surpluses. The rash of privatisations in the early 1990s has left utility companies awash with up to £8 billion of surplus cash in their pension schemes.

Pensioners and employees argue that surpluses should belong to them because the funds are set up for their benefit. But employers say they contribute on employees' behalf and guarantee pension payments.

Surpluses, which often run *into millions of pounds*, are distributed primarily according to the rules of the pension scheme, normally drawn up by employers. In many cases, employers have quite legitimately taken surplus pension money and used it to pay redundancy or other bills.

Actuaries gave warning that there is potentially nothing to stop utilities using pension funds to offset the costs of the threatened windfall tax, as long as their schemes allow them to do so.

The collective call for action comes as employers and employees prepare to clash in the Court of Appeal over the ownership of nearly £350 million of surpluses in National Grid and National Power. Both companies had used part of their surplus to pay redundancy bills after they were privatised in 1990.

Pensioners of both companies successfully challenged their former employers, only to see the companies win backing for their use of surpluses in the High Court this week. Pensions lawyers said the decision would give a "green light" to employers to extract surpluses more easily in future.

But Mr Justice Walker immediately gave the pensioners leave to appeal and said it is a "matter of real concern" that a decision on who owned surpluses should "*depend, as it often seems to* depend, on subtle and complex arguments about the meaning of scheme documents". He made clear that he was legally powerless to override decisions made by trustees and employers in accordance with the terms of their pension scheme, but he urged a debate on the need for "more drastic legislative intervention".

Unions echoed his call for reform. Bill Day, national pensions officer of the GMB union said: "We would go further. It is entirely inappropriate that employers can unilaterally appropriate pension scheme surpluses. Legislation is long overdue to ensure that pensioners and scheme members have proper rights when surpluses are allocated."

Pensioners also attacked the existing system. Dennis Cockerill, chairman of the Committee of Unilever Pensioners (Coup), will be writing to Harriet Harman to urge her to review the 1995 Pensions Act and to demand clarification on the ownership of surpluses.

Unilever pensioners are demanding a larger share of an £800 million surplus, which is being used mainly to give the company and its current employees a contributions holiday and to build up a reserve against bad times.

The new Pensions Act has strengthened the hand of employees, in that trustees can now override the scheme rules if they believe an employer's proposals for using surplus funds will threaten the scheme's solvency.

Trustees must agree before employers take cash out of the scheme. But the Act stopped short of specifying rules on distributions of surpluses, fearing that employers would reduce contributions or stop providing pension schemes based on final salary if they could not use surpluses as they chose.

The new Act also only covers actions by employers after April 6 this year. Many of the most high-profile battles over surpluses have been running for several years and will not come under the Act. They will have to rely on the protection of the courts to interpret scheme rules.

This week's High Court ruling on National Grid and National Power will be a blow to such employees, pensions experts believe. Mark Atkinson of Cameron McKenna, the solicitors, said: "The judge has given a lot of control to the employer. As long as he acts in good faith he can use surpluses even if there is a conflict with the wishes of scheme members."

Angela Dimsdale Gill, a partner at Lovell White Durrant, which was acting for National Power pensioners, said: "This is a case where the employer's right unilaterally to decide to use surplus for his own benefit has been upheld." The judgment reverses the normal position which enables employers to take money from the fund only if the scheme specifically allows it, she added.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

London houses set for 15% rise by end of the year

House prices in the UK are set to rise by up to 10 per cent this year, fuelled by real growth in income, better employment prospects, increasing consumer confidence and building society windfalls.

In London, which has already led the boom, the price of a home is expected to end the year 15 per cent higher. By December, a £300,000 family *house will have risen £45,000.*

According to Ciaran Barr, UK economist with Morgan Grenfell, the leap in prices, particularly in the capital, is partly because of a lack of supply. He said: "As more properties come on the market next year, prices should stabilise. Although other parts of the country will start to catch up, London will continue to outperform the North *this year and next.*"

Morgan Grenfell's predictions come as the Land Registry, a government department, this week reported that *prices had risen by more than* 8 per cent nationally over the past year, and had doubled in some parts of London.

One of the *beneficiaries* of the buoyant housing market will be the Blair family, who have put their home in Islington, *North London, on the* market for £615,000. They bought the five-bedroom property five years ago for £375,000. Islington is one of *the areas currently most* sought after by buyers.

A similiar £600,000 sum will buy a five-bedroom flat with a river view in the east of London. It will buy you a three-bedroom flat in Knightsbridge, a small castle with ten bedrooms in Scotland, or a whole terrace of houses in the North of England. In Mr Blair's Sedgefield, Durham, constituency you could buy a five-bedroom family house with garden for £86,000.

Weekend country cottages, a 1980s fashion which died in the recession, are making a comeback. *Increasing numbers* of buyers in the South East are seeking property in the Cotswolds, Oxfordshire and Shropshire. *These house-hunters have few concerns* about interest rate rises, because they have large deposits.

Though the combination of

Continued on page 37

Pop goes Hanson reputation

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

How are the mighty fallen. For years Hanson featured among the ten most valuable companies quoted on the Stock Exchange. Its shares became more widely held than *almost* any non-privatised company. This week the revamped Hanson narrowly escaped being relegated from the FTSE 100 index, along with its offshoot Imperial Tobacco. They missed the cut but were reprieved until the autumn.

For investors, size is not important. Even so, falling out of the index is bad news. An increasing number of funds match the index and would sell their stock. Many international funds restrict their holdings to top companies in any one country. And these cuts in demand for a company's shares are reinforced by the feeling that it is on the way down.

This is not necessarily true of the former Hanson companies. Lord Hanson's retirement plan was to split his ragbag empire into four quoted companies that would either be reinvigorated or clearly labelled for takeover.

One of these plans came to fruition *yesterday*, when PacifiCorp, a worryingly ambitious American power company, mounted a £3.6 million agreed takeover for the once Hanson-owned Energy Group. This corporate oddity seemed designed to be eaten by a US utility, pairing the US Peabody coal mines with Britain's Eastern Electric.

Eastern might have had a more exciting future on its own as a British multi-utility expanding vertically into power stations and *horizontally* into gas and telecoms. As it is, those of us who kept shares in Energy Group will gain, but not as much as optimistic analysts *projected when Lord Hanson sprung his* demerger plan 18 months ago.

The exercise has been a disappointment. Rather than creating value, the component parts appear to be worth about 19 per cent less than old Hanson shares were at the time of the announcement. Over the period, the FTSE index has risen by 29 per cent.

Hanson was a well-conceived conglomerate that added value to businesses *likely to have a lowly rating on their own.* Dealing profits, accounting wheezes and tax-saving schemes played their part. These advantages faded and sentiment had turned before the demerger. With Lord White's death and Lord Hanson's retirement, it was Verona without the two gentlemen.

For the same reason, the rump or "new" Hanson has signally failed to follow its pop namesake to the top of the hit parade. The *City equivalent of* MMMBop is valued as a building materials group with a credibility problem, not as a fashionable high-flyer. Reputations cannot be inherited.

Apart from enriching the middlemen, the demerger looks irrelevant. Faced with like problems, a new board at BTR tackled them differently. It is sorting out the rambling group internally to give it a new identity and has cut the dividend explicitly rather than by stealth. The returns have so far have been even worse. BTR *shares* have dropped 40 per cent in 18 months.

Financial engineering can help long-term strategic change, as at Reed International, but is irrelevant to the momentum that lifts up vibrant groups and drags *down* tired ones. Gerry Robinson, buoyant chairman of Granada, is right to reject, for the time being, self-serving City suggestions that he should split the fast-growing group into television and hotel and services bits.

Leisure and media are good businesses to be in if you have the skill and means needed to take advantage of growth opportunities. But the momentum buoying Granada upwards is the deal-making skill of Mr Robinson and his team, satisfied this week by a takeover bid for Yorkshire-Tyne Tees. Just as the downside at new Hanson is pounced on, so Granada is given the benefit of the doubt. Comment focuses, for instance, on gains from selling Forte hotels rather than provisions made against other assets. It will not always be so. Investors will know that momentum *has run out when* Mr Robinson presses that demerger button.

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Caroline Merrell says pressure is growing for another big windfall

Rush to Nationwide on conversion hopes

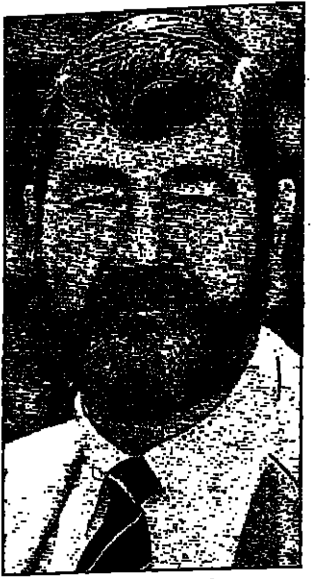
Cracks are beginning to app-ear in Nationwide Building Society's commitment to mutuality. This week, the society, now the UK's biggest, with £40 billion assets, said it took seriously the threat from five members who are attempting to get on to its board. If elected, the rebels, led by Michael Harden, a butler, will press the board to convert Nationwide or allow a takeover.

The society, advised by Goldman Sachs, has valued itself at about £7 billion. This would result in a windfall of nearly £2,000 per member. The news is likely to spur the opening of new accounts at the society, where minimum investment remains £500. Its Investdirect postal account pays 6.4 per cent on £500 or more. Brian Davis, chief executive, said: "If an approach was made, we would have to consider it." Potential bidders could include NatWest, Abbey National, BAT or Halifax.

The Nationwide is putting up its own five candidates for election. Ballot papers for the society's three and a half million members will be arriving in the next few days. The board is launching a staunch defence by emphasising its high savings rates and low mortgage rate. Its "mutuality package" cost it *nearly £200 million last year*, but in terms of attracting new customers it seems to be paying dividends. Nationwide took in nearly £700 million of new money last month — £50 million from Alliance & Leicester, which floated in April. If the Nationwide is taken over or forced to convert, pressure will mount on remaining mutuals. As Mr Davis said: "If the vote is substantially in favour, then we will have to consider our position."

ROBIN MAYES

Surprise windfalls: Daniel Lucas, left, and Philip Anderson


Lamb: suing over shareout

Among Halifax shareholders awaiting developments is Philip Anderson, who received the basic 200 shares. He said. "I had forgotten I was a member — I just paid a direct debit into a Save-As-You-Earn scheme, and *it was only when the share form* came that I realised I was in for a windfall." A 200-share payout also came as a surprise to Daniel Lucas, an office colleague. At 19, he has become a shareholder for the first time. He also has 200 shares.

Meanwhile, Anthony Lamb, an Isle of White reader, is suing the Halifax, claiming that his local branch failed to inform him that he should have toppedup his account to the vital £100 level by December 31, 1997.

Mr Lamb, a retired police inspector, said the branch emphasised the importance of replenishing its account by February 1997 but made no mention of the earlier deadline. He believes Halifax is guilty of breach of contract. Its view is that all deadlines were made clear in mailings to customers. It is reluctant to comment on talks between branches and customers.

PRICE CHECK

ALLIANCE and Leicester shares closed at 615p, down 8.5p from their peak on Tuesday. However, since flotation day on April 21, they have risen more than 70p from their initial 542.5p price.

Halifax shares fell to 754p, now more than 20p lower than the 776.5p obtained by those who sold on the morning of June 1, their first day of stock market trading.

Not enough shares to go round

Norwich Union offer likely to be oversubscribed says **Marianne Curphey**

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Norwich Union members who applied for extra shares in the insurer's imminent £5.6 billion flotation will learn tomorrow whether their allocation is, as expected, going to be pared down.

The offer for shares is believed to be more than six times oversubscribed, and Norwich Union has already increased its quota of shares to members by 50 per cent, at the expense of institutional investors and non-members.

Further details of the allocation to members will appear in newspapers on Monday morning.

Norwich Union has said it will give a general idea tomorrow of whether the offer was oversubscribed, although individual members have to wait until next Friday or Saturday to discover exactly how far their application has been reduced.

The extra shares available to members has been achieved by clawing back £400 million worth of stock originally earmarked for institutions and non-members.

When the retail offer closed on Tuesday, investors queued outside the offices of Lloyds Registrars in Southwark, London, to make last-minute applications. However, some institutions are unhappy with yesterday's announcement that the members' offer had been increased from £800 million worth of shares to £1.2 billion.

The public offer, which comprises the institutional offer, the retail offer and the employees offer, will now be in the range of £1.1 billion to £1.2 billion.

The price of the public offer is expected to be in the range of 240p to 290p per share. The members' offer price will be at a 25p per share discount to the public offer price and Norwich Union said it is expected to be in the range of 215p to 265p.

Norwich Union will be sending out share certificates, plus a cheque refunding applicants for the balance if they did not get all the shares they had hoped for.

Those members who opted just for the windfall shares and no extra allocation should have already received their certificates. Norwich Union began sending these out yesterday, although it acknowleges that some members may have to wait until Monday for them to arrive.

Many members applied for the extra allocation because of *the 25p discount being offered* by Norwich Union. However, the delay, which Norwich Union says is unavoidable, means that if the price of the shares falls in the first five days of trading, members may lose the benefit of the discount.

Brokers predict that although the institutional investors, like the pension funds, are very interested in owning Norwich Union shares in their portfolios, the stock is likely to be highly volatile *initially*.

This is because a large number of investors are planning to "stag" the issue — ie, sell quickly to make a profit. This could leave more sellers in the market than buyers, driving down the price.

However, Norwich Union is tipped as a takeover target, with some analysts suggesting that AMP, the Australian mutual insurer, might make an early raid on the shares. But most analysts agree that for the ordinary investor taking a long-term view, the shares are a good buy.

Norwich Union has announced a range of share dealing services to enable members to buy and sell from Monday. NatWest Bank, Barclays Stockbrokers, Cazenove and Davy Stockbrokers will deal on an execution-only basis.

Those shareholders who have elected to receive a share certificate can use either these services or make their own arrangements through stockbrokers or other share dealing facilities. Members whose shares are held in the Norwich Union Share Account will be able to deal only through these providers.

A significant number of private investors applied for the maximum £100,000 worth of shares.

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Take interest in Nationwide

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

The fate of the Nationwide Building Society could determine returns to savers for the rest of the century. Anyone concerned about receiving a decent rate on their savings should take an interest in the bizarre events now unfolding at this once most mundane of mutuals.

Currently the Nationwide is beset by an Ealing comedy band of speculators, including a retired undertaker and a management consultant, who are determined to gain seats on the board and turn the society into a bank. Led by Michael Hardern, who describes himself as a freelance butler, these aspiring directors are arguing the case for conversion in a series of riverborne photo opportunities.

Mr Hardern promises to serve up £1,000 apiece to savers and borrowers if the Nationwide abandons mutuality. The Nationwide's merchant bank has arrived at another calculation that puts a £7 billion price tag on the society, or £2,000 per member.

It seems that Nationwide, now the largest society, is taking seriously the implications of the Hardern assault, despite its absurd cast of characters. The society is also aware that its independence could be threatened by predators, such as the Halifax or the Abbey National.

Whatever their intentions towards the Nationwide, these banks would prefer to see the society convert or succumb to takeover. A change of status at the Nationwide would lessen competition in the savings' market, because the society would conveniently cease to offer its present attractive combination of a large branch network and better-than-average rates.

The remaining mutuals and the banking divisions of the supermarkets would continue to produce good rates. But the Halifax and the rest would reign supreme through sheer weight of branches. Generous rates for savers would not be a priority.

The Nationwide and the other committed mutuals must be hoping that the Government comes to their rescue with legislation that would prevent the further shrinking of the sector. Meanwhile, savers will continue to climb aboard the Nationwide, just in case they get a chance to check the Hardern estimate of its value with the merchant bankers' sums.

New militants

THE struggle over pension surpluses and the South West train drivers' legal action are heartening developments. Employees are at last realising the value of their investment in company pensions. Is this the new industrial militancy?

Mind the savings gap

Booming banks fail to pass on better rates, says **Caroline Merrell**

TRI STAR PICTURES

Bank profits and shares are booming, thanks in part to the poor rates being paid to savers. According to a report, published this month by Simon Samuels, an analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, one of the big factors in rising profits has been the widening of margins.

The banks, including recently converted building societies, are not passing on the full extent of any rise in borrowing rates to their savers. Last week, in the wake of the 0.25 per cent base rate rise, both the Halifax, which became a bank earlier this month, and the Abbey National increased their mortgage rates by 0.35 per cent. Over the past two months, mortgages rates have risen 0.7 per cent, while savers' rates increased 0.5 per cent. Halifax savers' rates will not rise again until July.

Mr Samuels calculates that in 1983 savers received a rate just 1.31 per cent below the base rate. This has now fallen to 3.9 per cent. The interest rate margin, the difference between the rate paid to savers and the rate charged to borrowers, at the converted societies like the Halifax is now 2.1 per cent. This compares with an average interest rate margin of 1.5 per cent at those societies that are determined to remain mutual, like the Bradford & Bingley. The Nationwide has seen its interest rate margin fall from 2.36 per cent to 1.80 per cent. Mr Samuels notes that margins began to widen when the Halifax and the other converting societies announced their decision to become banks. Customers anxious to qualify for windfalls became less concerned with the rate they were receiving on their savings.

Although the Alliance & Leicester strengthened its competitive position in the last few remaining months as a society, it has seen the defection of thousands of customers to its rivals. Nationwide, for instance, reports that it received £700 million in new deposit money last month, of which £50 million came from the Alliance & Leicester.

The Halifax is also suffering an outflow of funds, but Mr Samuels estimates that the effects of the flotation will cushion the society against the loss of deposits. Thousands of other savers will sell their shares and leave the proceeds in Halifax accounts.

Besides being unimpressed by the former building soceties, Mr Samuels finds little to praise in the savings schemes offered by the traditional high street banks. The report said: "Natwest is one of the most uncompetitive banks in the UK in the longer 30-day and 90-day deposit accounts and remains uncompetitive in the interest-paying cheque product."

On Barclays, the report says: "Generally Barclays is less

Continued on page 36, col 6

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Helen Pridham looks at ways to fund grandchildren's school fees

A lesson for grandparents

With "failing" schools often in the news and the whole question of educational standards a political football at the last election, many grandparents are increasingly concerned about the education of their grandchildren and are anxious to help in some way. One such grandparent, Sarah Archer, of Buxton, Derbyshire, has asked for advice on whether to put money in trust for her two grandsons' education. They are at present aged 12 and 13.

There are a number of different means by which money can be set aside for grandchildren in a tax efficient way. A trust may not always be necessary or desirable. For example, School Fees Investment Advisers (SFIA), of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, offers a tax-efficient scheme that has proved particularly popular with grandparents called the Guaranteed School Fees Plan.

The scheme can also be used to help to cover the living expenses of older children when they go to university.

Chris Procter, of SFIA, said: "The attraction of the scheme as far as grandparents are concerned is that there is no investment risk and since the money has not come from the parents, the payments made from the plan are treated as the child's income. So the child's own personal allowance, currently £4,045 [a year], can be set off against the payments."

Under the scheme, the grandparents' capital is used to buy an offshore annuity from Royal Life International which is based in the Isle of Man. The annuity provides termly payments from a future date determined by the investor for whatever the period chosen, say five years.

It is advisable to set up the plan at least a year before the payments start. The level of benefits is determined at the outset. They will depend on the annuity rates prevailing at the time, the size of your investment and how soon payments are required. The minimum that can be invested per child is £5,000. As the investment is made outside the UK — in the Isle of Man — the growth of the underlying assets is tax free. This is reflected in annuity rates.

Falling standards since the 1960s mean many more families are paying for education

Annuities are designed to produce a high level of regular payouts consisting of both capital and income so they are a good way of funding termly fees from a lump sum. However, other investments can also be used to generate capital growth or income which can be used for a child's educational needs. Simon Philip, of Binder Hamlyn, the accountant, points out that many ordinary investments can be held in nominee names for children at no extra cost.

He said: "A grandparent can put money into a variety of investments from National Savings and building society accounts to investment and unit trusts and designate them with his or her name and that of the child. A record of the gift should be kept. Then any capital gains or income from the investments can be set against the child's personal allowances and tax reclaimed."

A potential drawback of this arrangement in the eyes of some elderly relations is that the ownership of these investments passes automatically to the child at age 18. Grandparents who want to make substantial gifts over which they can retain some control until children reach a more suitable age may consider setting up an accumulation and maintenance trust. This type of trust can be set up for all or some of a donor's grandchildren providing they are under 25.

Income from investments held within a trust can be paid out to help to fund the children's school fees or university expenses. This will be treated as the children's own income so once again their personal tax allowances can be offset against it. Accumulation and maintenance trusts will often be set up so that the children become entitled to a share of the capital on reaching a specified age, say, 25, but this can be left to the discretion of the trustees.

According to Clive Scott Hopkins, of Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, which produces a free leaflet on accumulation and maintenance trusts, the cost of setting up a trust will vary from £500 to £1,500 depending on the fees charged by your legal adviser. Annual trust accounts and tax returns will also be required which could cost from £250 to £1,000. Investment management charges may be incurred too. So these trusts are really only practicable when substantial sums of, say, £100,000 or more are involved.

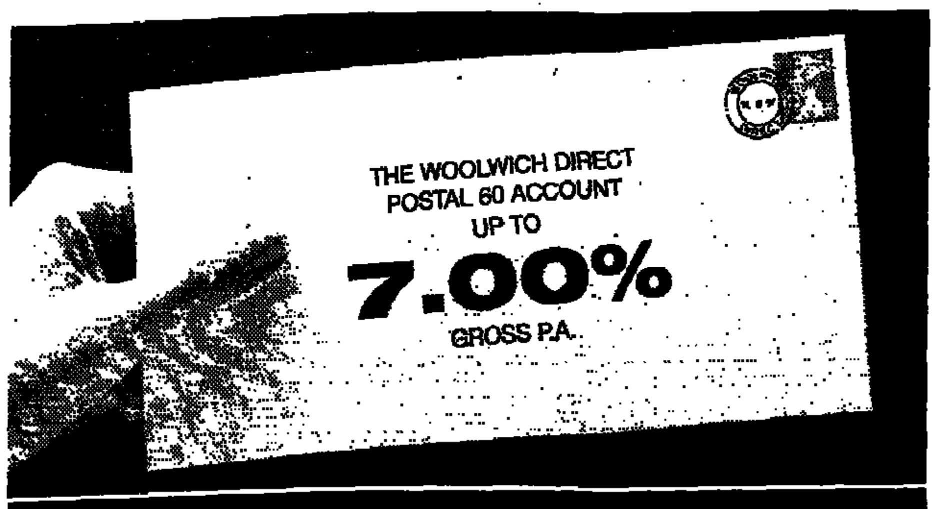
One of the advantages of grandparents setting money aside for their grandchildren's education is that it can help to cut down on a possible future inheritance tax bill. Annual gifts of £3,000 can made free of tax anyway. But larger gifts are currently treated as "potentially exempt transfers", which means that if the donor survives for a further seven years, no tax is payable.

However, David Rothenberg, of Blick Rothenberg, the accountant, said: "There is a high risk that after the Budget on July 2 a charge may be made on lifetime gifts." So any grandparents wishing to make a substantial gift may wish to act before that date, but they should always seek professional advice first.

Life insurance policies are often set up and placed in trust so that they fall outside a policyholder's estate. This may be done to ensure that a widow, for example, gets the proceeds quickly and does not have to wait for probate or provide other beneficiaries with money to pay inheritance tax bills on the rest of the estate.

However, Mr Rothenberg believes that many Norwich Union policyholders who have set up trusts may have overlooked the fact when free shares were handed out recently.

He pointed out: "It means that these shares do not actually belong to the policyholder. They belong to the trust. This also means they cannot be placed in a Pep. Anyone who has put a policy in trust needs to look at the situation carefully and seek advice on what they can do with their shares."



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Brown to take us into the unknown

Rumours are rife in the run-up to Budget day, says **Anne Ashworth**

The contents of Gordon Brown's first Budget on July 2 becomes daily the subject of greater speculation. Observers are loath to dismiss any rumour because so little is yet known of Mr Brown's policies.

Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, has now issued its racing card of Budget odds, placing bets on the intentions of this unknown Chancellor. The windfall tax on utilities, reduction of VAT on domestic fuel and the abolition of tax relief on private medical insurance for the over-60s are seen as dead certs at odds of 1-5.

The abolition of mortgage interest tax relief, the restriction of capital gains and inheritance tax reliefs and a reduction in advanced corporation tax, the dividend tax credit, are seen as a 2-1 shot. At 3-1, meanwhile, are higher petrol duties and the introduction of the individual savings account (ISA). A 10 per cent or 15 per cent starting rate for income tax and the abolition of higher-rate pension tax relief are 4-1.

Here we list the measures that accountants and others suggest could form part of the Brown Budget.

Disappearing act? Paul Daniels has said he may go abroad

■ **Pensions:** There is speculation that Mr Brown may abolish higher-rate relief on pension contributions. But the reform might not take immediate effect. John Whiting of Price Waterhouse believes that the difficulty in managing the change means that Mr Brown could delay any reform until April 1998.

Some cast doubt on whether the measure would be workable. According to Steve Midwinter, of Deloitte & Touche, higher-rate relief could easily be removed from Pep holders. But it would be administratively more difficult for final-salary pension schemes, where employer's contributions are not made on behalf of any particular individual. As it is difficult to calculate how much is paid in on behalf of each employee, it would be tricky to work out how much tax relief should be withdrawn.

■ **Housing:** Mr Brown may be contemplating an increase in the rate of stamp duty on property purchases, according to Maurice Fitzpatrick of Chantrey Vellacott. The tax is charged at the rate of 1 per cent on properties of more than £60,000. He could double this rate. For those who buy a house for only a little more than £60,000 he could introduce an interim rate on purchases between £60,000 and £100,000. Mr Whiting thinks stamp duty on shares is here to stay because it raises useful revenue. Indeed some tightening of the rules is possible.

■ **Savings:** There is growing conviction that Mr Brown will use his first Budget to unveil proposals for the individual savings account (ISA) outlined in the Labour manifesto. The ISA is a potential successor to the personal equity plan (Pep) and tax exempt special savings account (Tessa).

David Major, of Deloitte & Touche, suggests what form the new long-term savings incentive could take.

Mr Major proposes that ISA investors would contribute to a fund holding a wide variety of investments, including cash, shares, gilts, corporate bonds and property. They would not enjoy tax relief on their contributions, but the fund would be free of income and capital gains tax.

There would be either a lifetime or an annual limit on contributions. Mr Major envisages that since ISAs have many of the same features as Peps and Tessas, they would easily replace these schemes. They would also supplant the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), which gives tax 20 per cent tax relief on a a maximum £100,000 investment in unquoted companies.

The Building Societies Association would like to see the Chancellor re-evaluate the way that investments are taxed. The organisation recommends the introduction of a new personal allowance which could be set against any income.

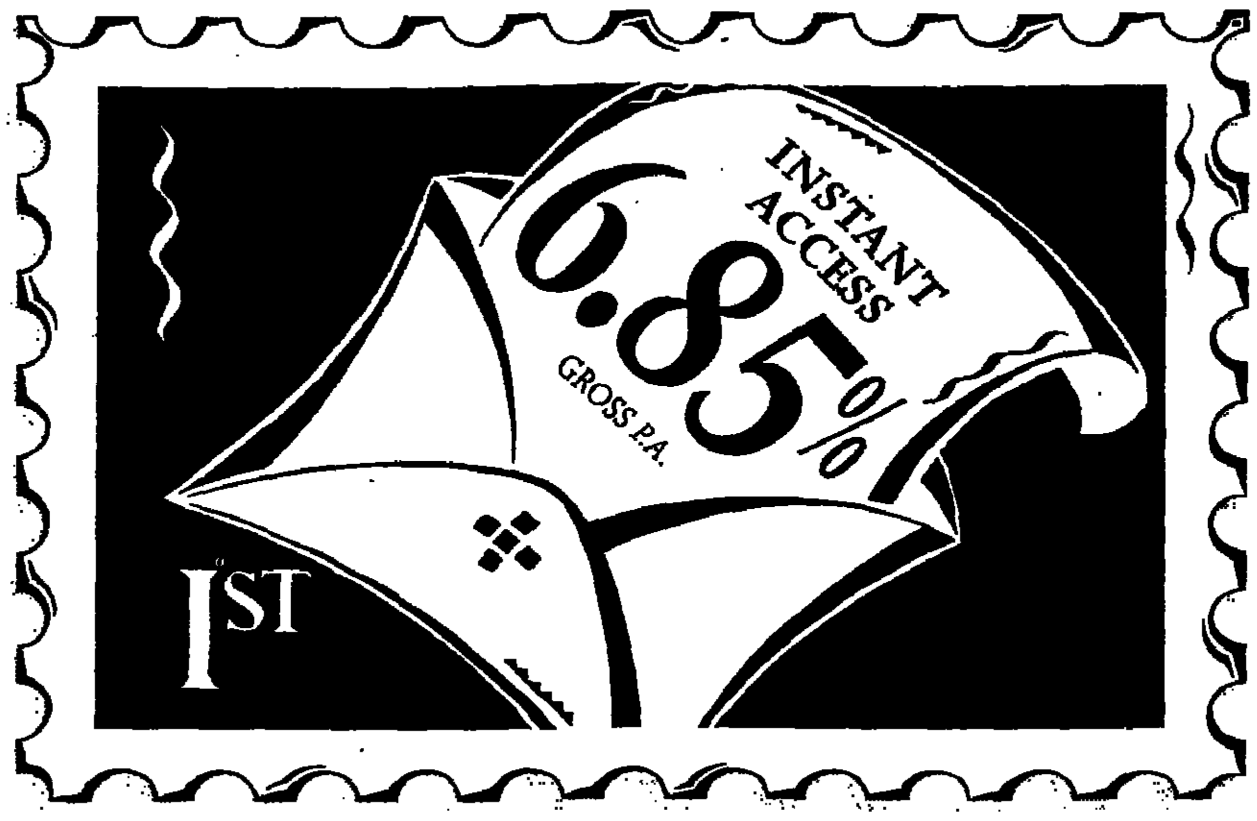
At present, the tax treatment of income generated by equities is different from the tax treatment of income generated by deposits. For example, investors can put up to £9,000 into personal equity plans every year and receive the gains tax free, but only £9,000 can be put into a deposit-based Tessa over the product's lifetime. The BSA says this has lead to "an unnecessary and unfair distortion of the savings market".

■ **Income tax:** Although Mr Brown has pledged not to raise tax rates, there is now general acceptance that he will find other ways to tax individuals more heavily. The economics team at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, expect these changes to be targeted at high earners, with Labour anxious to continue to foster trust among ordinary taxpayers.

The prospect of higher taxes this week caused Paul Daniels, the magician, to repeat his warning that he would leave Britain.

But, according to several accountants, Mr Brown could execute a conjuring trick that would remove the fear of high taxes for the handsomely paid by making it less easy for them to earn large amounts in the first place.

At present, companies can set salaries against their corporation tax bills. The Chancellor could bar businesses from deducting salaries of more than, say, £250,000-plus from their corporation tax liability.



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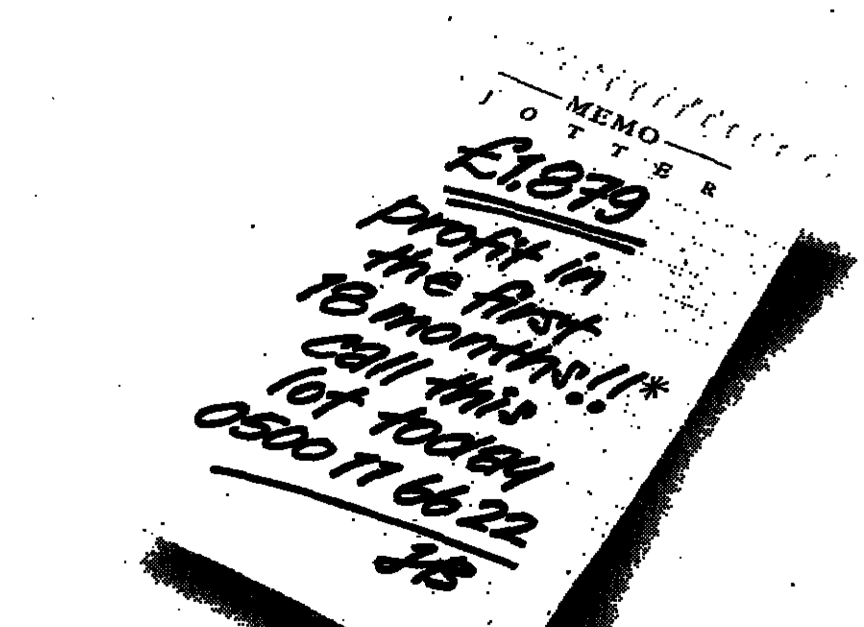

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Caroline Merrell concludes her two-part article on EMU's costs and effects

The euro rolls on regardless

The political drive for economic and monetary union lost a lot of momentum this week. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicted that Germany, France and Italy would all fail to meet the Maastricht criteria.

However, behind the scenes, preparations are still going ahead for the replacement of each of the European currencies with the euro.

At the moment, there are 12.5 billion banknotes circulating in the European Union, with another 8.5 billion held in store. Every year, six million new notes are printed for the 15 European Union central banks. Fifteen printing works scattered around Europe have the task of printing the new notes. The job of producing the paper for currency has been carried out by nine paper mills throughout the Continent.

The countries involved in preparing for the arrival of the euro put a 2002 deadline on the introduction of the new notes, and as it takes at least five years to design and originate a new note, preparations are well under way. The size, colour and denomination of each note has already been decided, as has the basic design. The words on the euro have been kept to a minimum, bearing in mind Europe's mixed cultural influences.

The different printing works will continue to print the new notes, although steps must be taken to ensure that the notes from the various places are identical. They will have to invest in new machinery, and the new raw materials will have to be bought.

The details of how the old European notes can be swapped for the new notes have yet to be hammered out. In principle, notes will be exchanged at fixed conversion rates. The European banks are currently trying to come up with a system of allowing an exchange of notes that will be free for customers.

Platemaking for the new notes should begin next year, with full-scale production scheduled for 1999. The costs of producing the new notes has yet to be apportioned to the different countries.

Joining the single currency will also have other significant costs for all companies, including the life insurance and investment companies. This latter group of companies have no choice but to pass the costs on to customers and shareholders. The Association of British Insurers believes that the cost of insurers joining the single currency will reach at least a £1 billion for the entire industry. The main elements of these costs are information technology, staff training and reprinting documentation. There will be a cost to life insurance companies of staying out of EMU — about a fifth of the costs of joining, according to the ABI.

The single currency will also bring with it eventual changes to the way billions of pounds is managed in pensions and in investment policies. At the moment, 40 per cent of the equities managed by UK insurance companies are the shares of the UK companies.

> Staying out of EMU would cost life insurers about one fifth as much as would going in

Jannette Weir, a researcher at the ABI who has been examining the effects of the single currency, said: "If you look at the market capitalisation of European companies, then only about 16 per cent of portfolios should be invested in the UK."

Ms Weir believes that if economic and monetary union does go ahead, then the pension and insurance companies would readjust their portfolios eventually . She also pointed out that the UK insurance companies had a high proportion of UK fixed-interest securities like gilts and corporate bonds. She said: "About 15 per cent of insurance company investments are in UK fixed-interest securities, with only 2 per cent in Europe." She believes that these proportions would eventually be reversed if the single currency goes ahead.

The ABI's overall conclusion about EMU is that the benefit to the insurance companies will be slightly on the positive side, but the association does not believe that staying out would prove too detrimental.

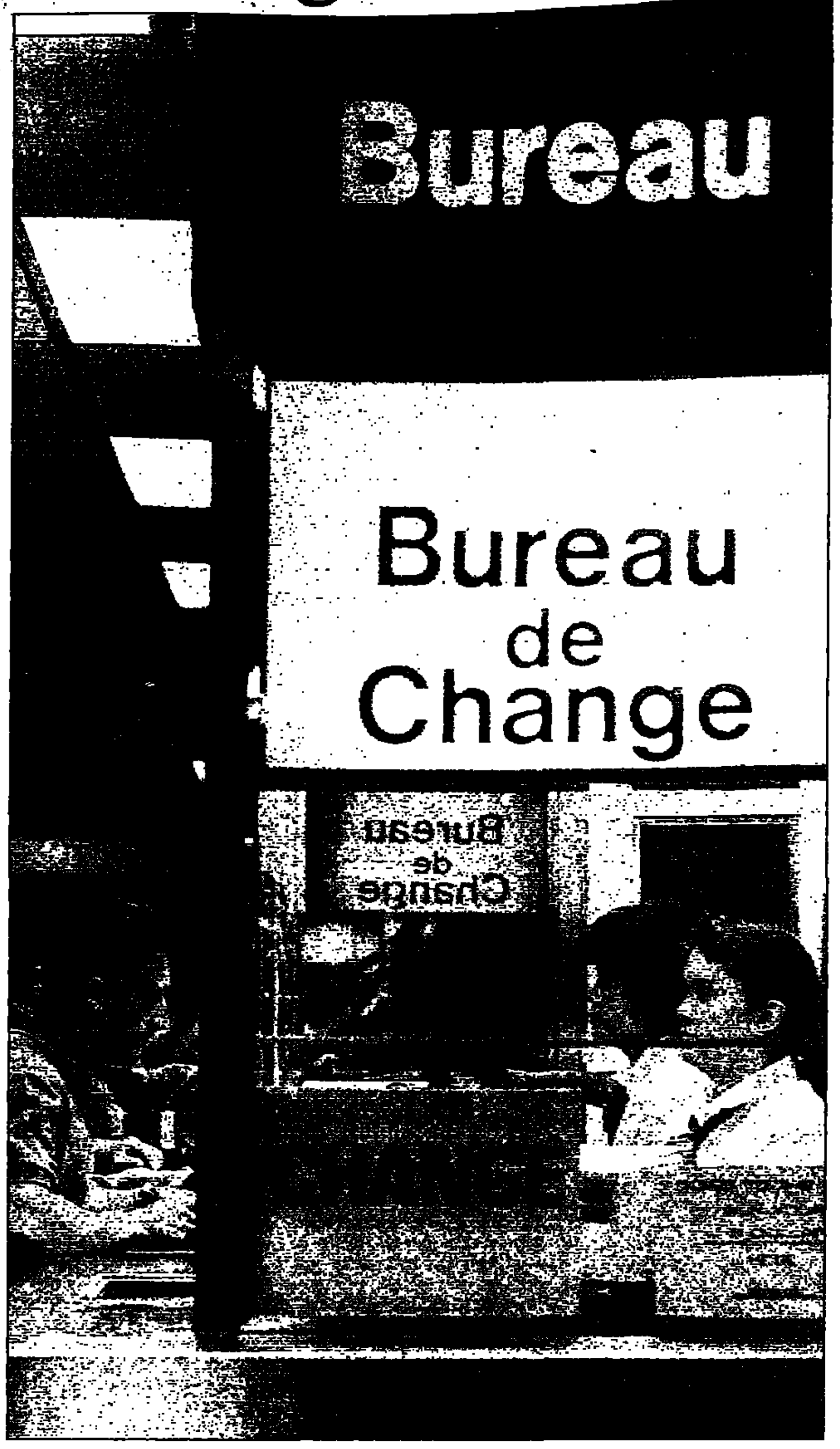
At one time, it was thought that the UK taxpayer could end up subsidising the pensions of other European countries. However, under a stability pact, introduced to ensure that each of the countries continued to fulfil certain economic criteria after the introduction of a single currency, this will no longer be the case. There will be no transfer of funds between countries. Each of the participating countries will have to ensure that their economies stay within certain economic limits. If they do not, they will be fined.

One company that could be taking heart from the European crisis is Thomas Cook, the travel operator. One third of its revenue is generated from foreign exchange transactions. Forty per cent of its turnover in foreign exchange comes through changing sterling into European currencies.

Andrew Windsor, Thomas Cook, director of retail operations, said: "It is our view that foreign exchange will become less attractive. The size of the foreign exchange market will shrink, margins will become low but we believe there is still some mileage in foreign exchange bureaux though there will be slightly fewer locations. However, more people will travel outside the EC area to exotic long-haul destinations in the future."

Thomas Cook has 385 travel shops, and 200 stand-alone foreign exchange bureaux at airports. The high street travel shops generate turnover of £300 million.

ANDY WATTS



Last week, the euro explained, and right, it will have a big impact on foreign exchange dealers

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Mixed blessing under EMU's wing

Caroline Merrell explains the implications for UK investors of the single currency in 1999

The events in Germany and France this week mean economic and monetary union (EMU) has become even more like the unfortunate flightless Australian bird that shares its name. The election of the socialist Lionel Jospin as the French Prime Minister, makes it less likely that France will be able to meet the Maastricht criteria in time for the introduction of the single currency in early 1999. M Jospin is sceptical about EMU and has already delayed the privatisation programme that would have helped the Government to reduce its debts to satisfy the Maastricht criteria. Equally , in Germany, in spite of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's best endeavours, the Bundesbank is refusing to allow

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Analysts anxious at outcome in Amsterdam

Nathan Yates says prolonged turbulence over EMU could prove disastrous for markets

RAY ROBERTS

Bridge building: but will the Amsterdam summit mean the beginning of the end for EMU?

MILLIONS of investors will be watching with anxiety next week as European governments wrangle over the future of economic and monetary union (EMU) at the Amsterdam summit. Analysts say that the outcome will have radical effects on stock markets and trusts all over Europe, and an unfavourable result could prove disastrous.

This week political tension mounted over the future of EMU as Europe's politicians scrambled for an agreement. If this turbulent period is prolonged, or if there are other adverse outcomes from the Amsterdam summit, managers of European funds fear difficult times lie ahead.

Instability over the future of EMU has already hit specialist European funds hard. Performance figures by Micropal show that some of these have fallen by nearly 4 per cent in just the last two weeks, after the Socialist win in the French election and the doubts over Germany's ability to squeeze its spending levels within the EMU qualifying criteria. In the same period the FT Eurotrack index has oscillated wildly, from a high of 2,406.56 to a low of 2,294.96.

Fund managers fear that if the right choices are not made in Amsterdam, this poor showing could be dwarfed by a much greater downturn. "I am very worried about Amsterdam and just about everybody with interests in Europe will be," said Daniele Serreya of Schroder. "In the worst scenario the summit could cause a very bad market, and Europe would not be the place to have any money."

The crux of the Amsterdam meeting will be negotiations on the "stability pact" which will determine the targets countries will have to meet if they are to qualify for inclusion in EMU in 1999. This pact was originally thought to be a rubber stamping of a "narrow" EMU based on the German and French economies. Strict limits on interest rates, borrowing and other economic measures would have to be met before other countries would be permitted to join.

But the French election victory for the Socialists means narrow EMU in 1999 is looking increasingly unlikely. The new regime is pledged to create 700,000 jobs through public spending which would disqualify it from this type of EMU, and this week it said it needed more time to consider the stability pact proposals.

Chancellor Kohl is still determined to push through strict criteria, and a clash between the French and Germans could occur. The German Government is itself battling with unemployment costs which could take its budget deficit beyond the 3 per cent of GNP which the stability pact stipulates.

If the narrow EMU cannot be salvaged, from the investor's point of view the alternatives are fraught with pitfalls. European leaders could decide to press ahead with the 1999 start date, and relax the economic criteria that must be met by participating countries. Or EMU could be delayed, raising speculation that it may founder.

TRUST WATCH

In both cases, the repercussions could be severe. If EMU is delayed, the mark would no longer be seen to be weak by aligning with other currencies. "Traders would buy marks, and the with a stonger mark German exports would become more expensive," said George Magnus, chief economist at UBS. "This could flatten the recovery in Germany."

Weaker currencies like the lira or peseta would plummet. Some analysts believe that the resulting export boost would benefit stock markets, but others fear weaker economies would be tipped into a downward spiral. "The markets have assumed that EMU will go ahead on time, and if there is a delay Spanish, Italian and emerging economies could be hit," said Roger Guy of Gartmore. "A delay would also reduce the incentive for European companies to improve efficiency, because they would still be able to exploit distortions of currency values."

If the EMU qualifying criteria are relaxed, many economists believe less restrictive budgeting would release a consumer boom, and a weaker euro would also be a boost for exporters. However, this could prove a mixed blessing. "The worst outcome of Amsterdam in the longer term would be a loose interpretation of the criteria," said Talal Shakerchi of Old Mutual. "Admitting countries which are not converging could create huge irregularities. For example, if Italy was not able to compete by devaluing, there could soon be a huge recession there. Also, if interest rates were set for the entire EU, they could be far too high for Germany, and its market would suffer."

Fund managers fear a compromise will be difficult to achieve but most think it is too early for investors to panic. "The EMU problems are temporary, and we are holding to our view that the long term outlook for European markets is positive," said Frances Dean of Morgan Grenfell.

Spain rapped on timeshares

TONY WHITE

Dolores Robinson: investment lost

Anyone contemplating using their building society windfall to purchase a timeshare this week might not be making the wisest of investments, according to Nigel Griffiths, Consumers Affairs Minister. Mr Griffiths gave warning that timeshare touts were on the prowl in European resorts and that Spain was ignoring the European Union Timeshare Directive, which guarantees buyers a prospectus in their own language and a ten-day cooling-off period. Mr Griffiths said that he would be raising the issue with his Spanish counterpart.

For many timeshare buyers, the problems first arise when they attempt to sell their share. Faced with rising annual maintenance charges, some relinquish their rights and are left with nothing.

According to Diana Hanks, consumer services manager at the Timeshare Council, the industry's watchdog: "When trying to sell, owners would be unwise to rely on realising the original purchase price, especially if the weeks owned are not in high season."

Edward and Dolores Robinson, both in their late seventies, bought a studio at the Clube Praia da Oura (CPO), near Albufeira, Portugal, in 1983. "To start with we enjoyed our holidays," Mrs Robinson said. The couple paid £4,480 for occupancy rights for four weeks from mid-April to mid-May until the year 2011. The annual maintenance charge was £140. By 1994 Mrs Robinson was suffering from angina so they decided to sell, paying a £50 fee to put the studio on the resale register run by Petchey (Management and Finance) Limited, CPO's management company, which is based in Ilford, Essex.

By January last year the studio was still unsold and the maintenance charge had mounted to £621 a year. Facing a court summons and unable to find the money, they relinquished their rights. A number of Club Praia de Oura members have now formed an association to gain a say in management matters.

Ron Mills of Petchey said that the company had not taken any owner to court for failure to pay maintenance charges. He said Petchey's resale register had about a 20 per cent success rate. "This is a substantially higher sales rate than the resale companies achieve and is the reason we started the resale register, as a service to our owners," he added.

☐ A list of approved timeshare resale agencies can be obtained from the Timeshare Council. Tel: 0171-821 8845. The Department of Trade and Industry is also issuing a booklet on timeshares. It can be obtained by calling 0171-510 0174 and quoting reference: URN/97/643.

JENNY GROVE

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 14 1997

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Jason Nissé charts the ups and downs of Singer & Friedlander's football fund

Crowd pleaser or own goal?

Alan Hansen's face has become a familiar sight, not only for viewers of BBC's *Match of the Day*, where the former Liverpool captain's good looks and intelligent comments have given him cult status, but also on the finance pages. His image has been used for the advertising of Singer & Friedlander's football fund, one of the most overhyped and disappointing launches since Mercury Asset Management and Kleinwort Benson ventured into the uncertain world of European privatisations.

The football fund, launched in January, raised £35 million from investors who were attracted by the glamour of the burgeoning football sector, which had seen the value of leading clubs climb as much as 500 per cent during 1996.

Hansen was signed on a lucrative contract (rumoured to be £100,000 a year) to give football advice, essentially saying who will win the FA Carling Premiership or whether Stan Collymore was really worth £7 million. Essentially, he is there to market the fund but gives no investment advice. Hansen is also involved in Soccer Investments, another footballing enterprise, a shell company that he has floated on AIM, along with Mike Edelson, the man who reversed Conrad into Sheffield United, and Sir Rodney Walker, of Sports Council fame. They are planning to take over a football club, so bringing the number of listed clubs into the late teens.

Singer could not have chosen a worse time to launch its fund, which came at the peak of the football market. The Nomura index, which tracks the value of the leading clubs including those which are not actually listed on the stock market or AIM — such as Arsenal, Liverpool and Everton — has fallen by more than a third since early February.

The flotations of Aston Villa and Newcastle United suffered as the excitement ebbed in the market. Both stand well below their issue price and there are quite a few investors who paid twice Aston Villa's current market price for their shares. Singer, though, missed most of the problems. It defined the football sector widely, saying it would put money into football-related companies like Hay & Robinson, which makes the Ruud Gullit range of clothing, and BSkyB, which carries live football. It has also kept itself fairly liquid, holding about 30 per cent of its assets in cash. All the same, the fund's net asset value is down 5.6 per cent since launch and, with early withdrawls, there is now just £30 million in Singer's pot.

The question is, will the market turn? The decline of the sector has shown little signs of decreasing, but there is good reason to suggest it is close to its floor. First, the real excitement was generated by two factors: last summer's Euro 96 tournament and the prospect of pay-per-view TV, which is expected to increase clubs' revenues from televised games.

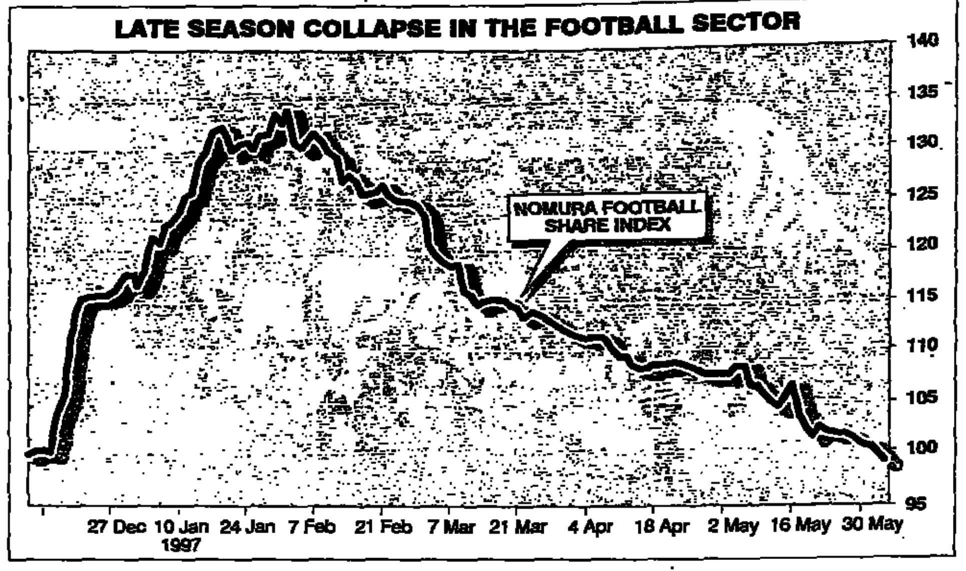
The World Cup takes place in France next summer, and the excitement generated by the tournament is sure to build throughout this year, taking football club share prices with it. On pay-per-view, BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is bound to test it on a live match soon. Once there is a successful test, the pay-per-view hype will resume.

Also it is clear that the market has some clubs valued wrongly. Manchester United has fallen with everyone else, yet its prospects are so much brighter than the rest of the sector that it is hardly comparable to the likes of Sheffield United or Charlton Athletic. Newcastle United is also an interesting prospect, thanks to its plans to build a new 55,000-seat stadium at Castle Leazes.

Though there is some concern about the cost of the project, the extra revenue Castle Leazes could bring makes Newcastle United a double play, with both a stadium and a pay-per-view kicker. Tony Fraher at Singer, though, thinks the club is too expensive at current levels. He may regret this decision as many have regretted investing in his fund.

BBC

Familiar face: Alan Hansen on *Match of the Day*



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Savers are left behind by the booming banks

Continued from page 31

competitive than the rest of the industry in all of our deposit categories. This is especially true in transaction-based deposit accounts."

However, the Abbey National has increased the rates on its Bonus Postal account by up to 0.95 per cent, following on from the base rate change last month. The rates on the account now vary between 6.85 per cent and 7.35 per cent.

For those who have between £2,000 and £10,000 to save, the interest rate is set at 6.85 per cent; savings of between £10,000 and £25,000 will attract a rate of 6.95 per cent; while amounts of more than £25,000 will get a rate of 7.15 per cent. Those who have more than £100,000 to save will get 7.35 per cent.

Ambrose McGinn, Abbey National's director of retail savings, said: "The Bonus Postal account is the market-leading account, and these latest rate changes ensure that this will remain the case."

Abbey National, has also increased the interest rates on its Investor 90 account by 0.25 per cent — the same amount as the base rate. The rate on the Investor 90 account now varies between 4.4 per cent and 6.55 per cent. Those who have £2,000 to save will earn 4.4 per cent interest, while those with £50,000 to save will earn 5.9 per cent.

Britannia, a society committed to remaining mutual, also increased its savings rates this week, but it kept its mortgage rates at the same level. This society now pays between 3 per cent and 6.25 per cent on savings. For example, the bonus builder account offers a rate of 4.5 per cent on £5,000 savings, while the high interest instant access account pays 3.75 per cent.

Lloyds Bank has introduced a high interest deposit account which pays 6.85 per cent per annum over two years and 6.5 per cent over one year. Those who wish to apply for the account must do so by July 27 at the latest. Savers can invest sums of between £2,500 and £500,000.

Bradford & Bingley, another society pledged to remain mutual, is promising to pay instant access accounts a higher rate of interest than the average offered in similar accounts by banks and converting building societies. The First Choice account pays between 3.4 per cent and 4.05 per cent.

Leeds & Holbeck has launched a new 30-Day account offering an interest rate of up to 7 per cent. The minimum investment in the account is £10,000. Interest can be paid monthly. Savings of between £10,000 and £24,999 carry an interest of 6.65 per cent. The rate increases to 7 per cent for those with more than £100,000.

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جرائد 1-56

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Can horrors of house buying be exorcised?

Estate agents have again become public *enemy number one* as the housing market hots up and fierce competition for scarce property brings 1980s-style stress for buyers and sellers.

This week, the Government promised a review of the whole conveyancing system, widely criticised for its unpredictability and slowness. *At the same time*, estate agents are being asked to sign up to an extended ombudsman scheme which would give *consumers* an independent complaints procedure.

This follows a stern warning to agents last week from the Office of Fair Trading *that they could* be banned or stripped of consumer credit licences for failing to pass on offers or disclose *potential* conflicts of interest.

So will all this make buying or selling a home less of a nightmare?

Q Will any of these things stop gazumping? I have lost two properties because other people have made higher offers.

A Under the current system, there can be a gap of weeks, *sometimes* months, between having your offer accepted and actually exchanging contracts. Until you exchange, *the estate agent* is legally bound to pass on all offers to the seller, who can accept *a better offer even if you* have already spent money on a survey and legal fees. The Government is considering ways of penalising gazumping, including a costs guarantee where each side would have to refund *costs if a deal falls through.*

Q Why can't the Government just change the law so that people sign the contract immediately after making an offer?

A The Lord Chancellor's Department claims there is nothing in current English law to stop you *doing just that. But your* seller has to agree, a tricky thing in a rising market, when he could miss out on a better offer. Agents will almost certainly not be keen, because the higher the price, the larger their commission. *Some people negotiate* voluntary lockout agreements where both *sides agree to exchange* within a certain time.

The Scottish system looks superficially more attractive. Potential buyers make sealed bids and the winner signs the contract immediately. But you may end up paying for several surveys *and searches on properties* you do not get. Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs *Minister, indicated a preference* for the Scottish system earlier this week but other government departments said that changing to the Scottish system was not government policy.

Q Will I be able to complain to the new *ombudsman* if I've been gazumped?

A Almost certainly not on those grounds alone. Agents work for the seller and have a duty to get *the best price by handing on* all offers. As the OFT made clear last week agents can be banned for taking fees from buyers to "ring-fence" *properties. But you may* be able to complain if the agent does not explain this, because this would be a breach of professional codes *of conduct.*

Q What else will be covered under the ombudsman scheme?

A You will be able to go to the ombudsman if the agent has breached laws *or professional* codes of practice, or if you believe you have suffered unfair *treatment or maladministration*. The bad practices outlined by the OFT last week should come within the ombudsman's remit. *These include failing to* declare a personal interest to a seller, and failing to tell a seller if there is a potential conflict of interest through earning commission on insurance sales to buyers.

Q I'm confused. I thought there was *already an estate agents'* ombudsman scheme.

A There is a limited one which only covers corporate agents — firms which are part of a chain. Independent agents are *not* covered. But now the three professional bodies for *estate agents have written to* their members asking for support to set up an extended scheme.

Q When will the scheme start and how much compensation can *I claim*?

A If *the bodies* get enough support, it should be running by September. The ombudsman will be able to award up to £50,000, which you can accept or reject without losing the right to go to court.

SARA MCCONNELL

London properties set for 15% rise this year

Peter Trievnor

Moving on: the Blair family's house in Islington is on the market for £615,000

Continued from page 29

a rise in interest rates and the prospect of the Chancellor removing mortgage interest tax relief (Miras) in next month's Budget could take the heat out of the market, Mr Barr believes the result will be only temporary. "It makes sense now to own a home," he said. "With mortgage rates at between 7 *and 8 per cent* and house prices rising by 9 per cent, you are making money just *by living there.*"

Outside London and the South East the boom is on a smaller scale. In the North West, Peter Davies of estate agents Thompson and Partners said the market is active but prices remain static.

First-time buyers are returning in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire where *agents see a 5 to 6 per cent* price rise by the year end.

MARIANNE CURPHEY
Research by Alex Bagner

Bad landlords face day of reckoning

Sara McConnell on the prospect of leasehold valuation tribunals

Leaseholders keen to sack incompetent or negligent landlords or agents as managers and take control of their block's management *themselves should prepare for* action now, according to Lease, the independent leasehold advisory service.

The Government is expected to sign the final papers giving the green light to an extended network of leasehold valuation *tribunals (LVTs) this month, to* start early in July.

Flat-owners, who mostly *own their flats* on long leases, will be able to contest high service charges at tribunal. But the tribunals should also open the way for leaseholders *to gain permanent control of* the overall management of their property.

Peter Haler, chief executive of Lease, says there should be nothing to stop leaseholders forming themselves into a company and applying to the *tribunal collectively to replace* a bad manager. This could be the landlord himself or his *agent. Once the leaseholders'* company is in place as managing agent, it can subcontract management duties to its own chosen professional agent.

Such an arrangement would leave the landlord as freeholder but remove the power to manage the property, levy service charges or carry out unnecessary repairs.

Thousands of leaseholders have been waiting for the *chance to challenge high service charges* and poor management of property through the tribunals, which were promised in April but delayed because of the election.

Unlike county courts, tribunals will charge a fixed fee of a *maximum of £500 and will not* have the power to award costs. Leasehold reform campaigners see LVTs as the key to strengthened rights for leaseholders, allowing them to take on landlords and their agents without facing the uncertainty *of paying the landlord's costs* if they lose.

The county courts already *have the power to replace bad* managers. But leaseholders, rather than the courts, will be able to nominate a replacement. Mr Haler argues that such a power "will give tenants the right to manage by the back door". When it was in opposition, Labour *tried* unsuccessfully to insert an amendment into last year's Housing Act which would have given leaseholders the *right to manage their own* blocks.

The amendment was resisted and overturned by the Conservatives. But tribunals, the Tories' response to demands for more leaseholder rights, look set to confer the *right to manage anyway.*

The first applications for tribunal hearings are expected to be accepted next month, after *Hilary* Armstrong, the Housing Minister, has signed the final orders. *Lease is drawing up standard* application forms and a leaflet explaining how the tribunals work. To *rid* yourselves of a bad manager you will have to show either:

- The landlord is in breach of management obligations *under the lease.*
- He or she has demanded, or is likely to demand, unreasonable service charges.
- The landlord has failed to comply with recognised codes *of practice for managing* agents. These are issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered *Surveyers (RICS) or the* Association of Retirement Housing Managers (ARHM) for sheltered housing.

There are other circumstan*ces which the tribunal should* take into account. Before you go to the tribunal you will normally have to serve a notice on the landlord outlining the grounds of your application and specifying a time by which he must resolve disputes.

If he fails to respond, you apply to the tribunal. If the tribunal gives you collective control of management, think seriously about appointing a professional managing agent. You will have the power to sack him if he does not perform. The *Association of Residential* Managing Agents (Arma) can supply a list of members in your area.

Contact numbers: *Lease* 0171-493 3116, Rics 0171-222 7000, ARHM 01275 848060, Arma 0181-960 9077.

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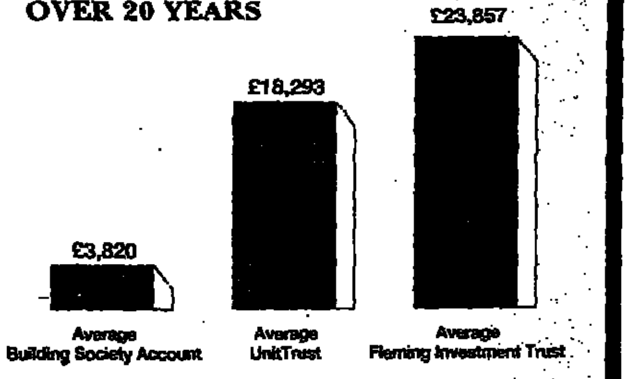
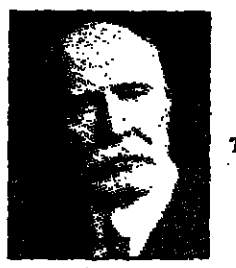


Source: Micropal, figures to 1st May 1997, net income reinvested.



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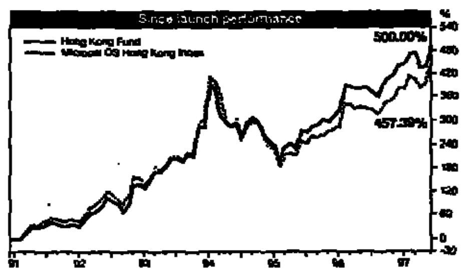

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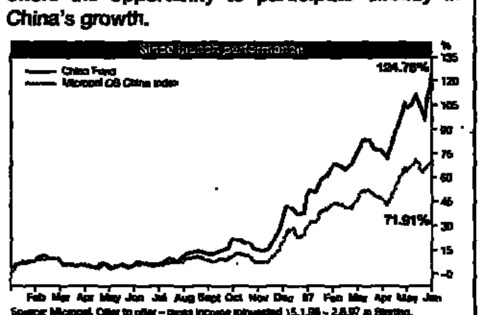
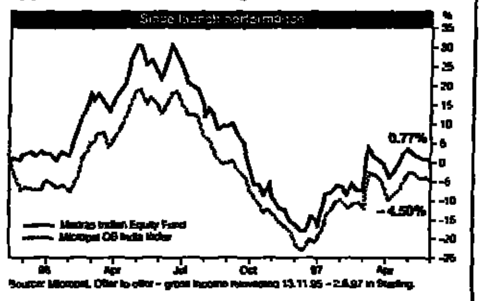


Madras Indian Equity Fund

On the basis of prospective earnings growth estimates, the Indian market is one of the cheapest in Asia and, in our view, the *fundamentals* are now in place for substantial appreciation over the long term.



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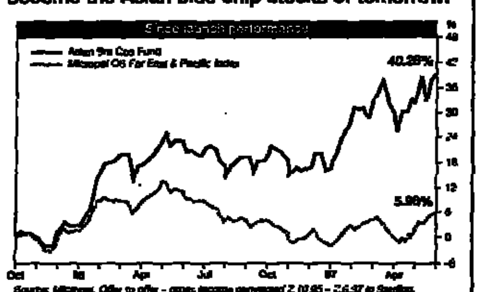

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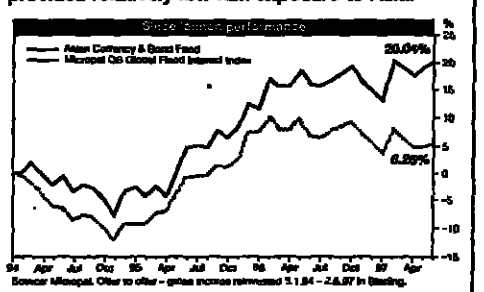

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Sovereign 90 90 day notice account offering one penalty-free withdrawal per year and monthly income. Interest credited monthly.	£5,000 – £9,999 £10,000 – £24,999 £25,000 – £49,999 £50,000 – £99,999 £100,000+	4.28 4.52 4.67 4.89 5.04	5.36 5.65 5.84 6.12 6.31
Corporate Account An interest bearing current account suitable for companies, partnerships, clubs and charities. Interest credited monthly.	£0 – £9,999† £10,000 – £24,999 £25,000 – £99,999 £100,000+	1.94 2.57 3.27 3.69	2.43 3.21 4.08 4.61
Client Account An interest bearing current account for accountants, stockbrokers and solicitors. Interest credited quarterly.	£0 – £4,999†† £5,000 – £24,999 £25,000+	2.72 3.50 3.69	3.40 4.37 4.61
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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Investment trusts are long-term buys

From Mr E.J. Fenton

Sir, I would like to take up some points raised by Nathan Yates in his article "Predators on the Prowl" (Weekend Money, June 7). The article contained some fairly extreme language. One phrase in particular caught my eye "In one of the unspoken scandals of the financial industry, trust directors have failed to act to prevent discounts from widening . . .".

First, I would strongly reject the suggestion of any scandal, unspoken or otherwise, in the investment trust industry. What we have seen in recent months, as always, is the stock market operating in its usual way. Many investment trust shares have not kept up with the surge in equity markets and discounts have indeed widened. However, in the context of the past 20 years the present level is quite modest at 11 per cent, having been over 30 per cent and as low as 4 per cent. Even so, the activities of predator funds and arbitrageurs confirm that this is a buying opportunity — and one that should not be missed by private investors.

Secondly, it is quite obvious that directors cannot act in a direct sense in influencing the share price. Any such manipulation is likely to be illegal. In extreme circumstances a reduction of capital may be considered, but investors must be aware that the structure of an investment trust company is long term in nature.

Indeed, investment trusts' superior performance is dependent upon the underlying portfolio being built for the long term.

The third point I would like to make is about performance itself. The industry comprises some 350 individual companies all with different investment objectives and performance. The generalist trusts with a wide spread of equity investments have shown consistently steady performance.

True, the performance of highly specialised funds is much more volatile — as should be expected. The Far East sector shows net asset value total returns on £100 of only 85 and 89 for one and three years respectively, although 380 over 10 years.

Finally, I come to the role of directors. This association is keen to ensure that the industry follows best practice, including corporate governance. The Stock Exchange and the AITC requires that all investment trust companies must have a majority of independent directors and each and every director, independent or not, must put the interests of the shareholder first. If the thrust of Mr Yates's article is that this is not the case then the industry must redouble its effort to prove him wrong. My conclusion is that investment trust company boards are effective and efficient in looking after the interests of the shareholder.

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST FENTON,
Director General,
Association of Investment Trust Companies,
Durrant House,
8-13 Chiswell Street, EC1.

Lack of urgency from NU helpline

From Mr R. G. Ferguson

Sir, Norwich Union is advertising vigorously the urgency of responding to its share offer.

On receiving the required application form, I wanted to ask when and how my shares could be sold at the earliest opportunity. On six occasions, its telephone helpline has invited me to "call back later, or tomorrow", and I am still awaiting a reply to my letter of a week ago marked "urgent — flotation enquiry".

Yours faithfully,
R. FERGUSON,
20 Dale Meadow Close,
Balsall Common,
Coventry, West Midlands.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number.

Topsy-turvy tale of Pru retraining

From Mr T. Chevalier

Sir, If it is not the fault of the Pru sales staff that they need retraining (Pru staff get free shares to retrain, June 7) then it must be the fault of their managers? No, their directors? No, it's 90 per cent the policyholders' (customers') fault! In this topsy-turvy world are directors and shareholders responsible for anything? That policyholders are to contribute 90 per cent of the cost of retraining the Pru's ill-trained staff is absurd. I thought shareholders appointed directors to direct and take responsibility for success *and* failure. It now appears Pru directors and shareholders are only 10 per cent responsible for their poor management.

I have no financial interest in the Pru but if it can get away with this it may be worthwhile buying shares, but definitely not a policy.

Yours faithfully,
TOM CHEVALIER,
10 Broughton Avenue,
Toddingston,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

Banks and veg don't always mix

From Mr A. Galloway

Sir, Having been one of the first people to open a Sainsbury's bank account, I have been shocked at the number of administrative errors that the bank has made on my account.

Retailers' favourite slogan used to be retail is detail — obviously this does not apply to their banking operations!

Perhaps they would be better off concentrating on retailing while leaving banking to those who do it best, the banks.

I, for one, shall be returning my deposit to National Savings who have served me well by providing prompt efficient service without such errors for many years.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM GALLOWAY,
Foxes Lodge,
Kiln Ride Extension,
Finchampstead,
Wokingham,
Berkshire.

From Mrs Sue Parkes

Sir, If Mr Edmonds (Suffering from an identity crisis, Weekend Money Letters, May 31) feels he has difficulties joining a building society he might find Sainsbury's Bank an even greater challenge.

It took me four attempts and not even the universally accepted electricity bill won it over. I was admitted only after having supplied my current bank statements together with a letter from the Halifax regarding my share allocation.

Yours faithfully,
SUE PARKES,
36 Thornhill Road,
Halesowen,
Dudley,
West Midlands.

Good practice not more regulation

From Mr G. Lunt

Sir, I take a professional interest in your article (Watchdog attacked over group schemes, Weekend Money, May 31). Your correspondent implies lack of transparency and high set-up charges are inevitably associated with group personal pensions to the detriment of early leavers.

This is not our experience. Neither is it impossible to provide good communication methods to ensure that employees fully understand the benefits afforded by their policy and the cost.

An employer who prides himself on staff welfare, assisted by a diligent adviser can tackle these issues, without the need for increased regulation. It is called good practice and I am happy to report that there is still a lot of it around.

Yours faithfully,
G. LUNT,
PIFC Benefit
Consultants plc,
Dresden House,
72 King William Street, EC4.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

■ VIRGIN DIRECT has been criticised by other Pep providers for its aggressive marketing campaign which, they argue, threatens to bring the fund management industry into disrepute. Virgin Direct claims that up to 90 per cent of Pep customers are victims of poor investment performance and brands 24 rival funds as "superdogs" that have failed to give value.

■ PAY specialists believe that the escalating cost of the profit-related pay schemes may lead Gordon Brown to accelerate their phasing out in his first Budget. Tax relief on PRP schemes reached more than £1.5 billion last year. New evidence reveals that companies are making increased use of the schemes before the loss of the associated tax benefits.

■ ABBEY NATIONAL was forced to apologise to the Stock Exchange over potentially price-sensitive remarks about merger talks with NatWest Bank. Abbey had spoken to the press before the Stock Exchange ruling out a deal with NatWest. An Abbey spokesman said: "We are deeply sorry ... we should not have been quite so definite in our public statement without prior Stock Exchange approval."

■ EVERY housebuyer's worst nightmare, gazumping, may become a thing of the past. Nigel Griffiths, Minister for Consumer Affairs, plans to stop the tactic of offering a higher price for property above the level agreed with another buyer by extending the Scottish system of house buying for use in England and Wales.

■ THE High Court ruled that National Grid and National Power acted lawfully in using pension scheme surpluses totalling nearly £350 million to fund redundancies after the privatisation.

■ WOOLWICH has raised its mortgage rate to 7.95 per cent. The rise will take immediate effect for new borrowers, but existing borrowers will not pay the new rate until June 19.

■ NATIONWIDE would be valued at £7 billion if it opted for flotation, according to the society's own calculation about its potential value. Members could benefit from a windfall of nearly £2,000 on conversion or takeover.

■ DEMAND for shares from Norwich Union members has been so great that the insurer is to increase the number of additional shares for members by 50 per cent by clawing back £400 million worth of stock originally earmarked for institutions and non-members.

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TT14/6P

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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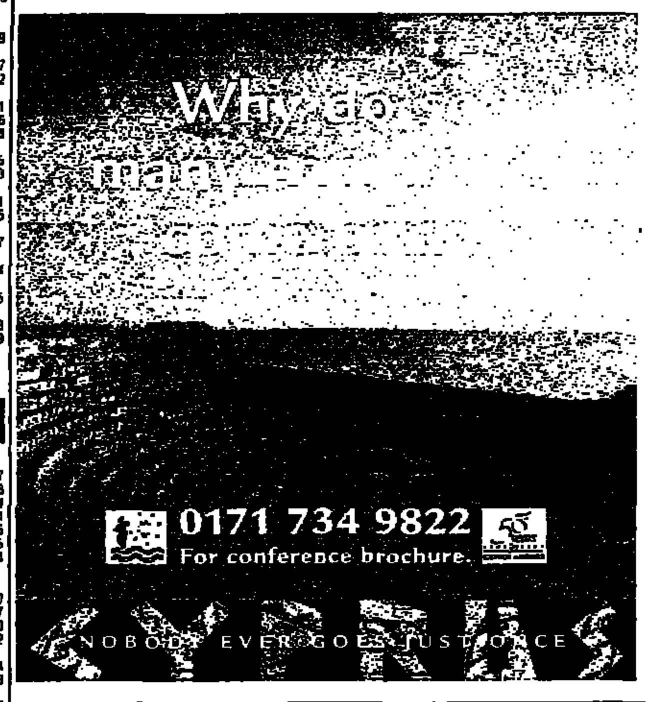
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Source: FT Information

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Reform of divorce process explained

With more than one in three marriages ending in divorce, The Family Law Act 1996, which is due to come into force at the end of the century, will inevitably have an impact on many couples in England and Wales. *The Which? Guide to Divorce* explains the whole process of divorce, including advice on how to minimise the costs. The guide also examines the reform of the law relating to pensions in divorce and the impending overhaul of the system of legal aid. Priced at £10.99, it is available from Which? Ltd on 0800 252100 or bookshops.

■ A PRACTICAL guide to all aspects of the council tax as it applies in England, Scotland and Wales has been published by the Child Poverty Action Group. The *Council Tax Handbook* covers all recent changes to law, regulations and practice. It explains which homes are eligible and which are exempt, how homes are valued and the discounts available. For example, people who live alone pay less. The guide also shows ways in which bills may be reduced. The handbook contains legal references and case law designed to assist housing and consumer advisers and welfare rights advisers. For a copy, send a cheque for £9.95 (including p&p) to CPAG Ltd, 1-5 Bath Street, London, EC1V 9PY.

■ A SERIES of free factsheets aimed at the private investor have been produced by ProShare, designed to make share-based investment more easily accessible. The series includes: "Choosing the right investment for you", which explains the relationship between risk and reward and offers some golden rules for beginners: "Where to get share information", giving sources of stockmarket listings; "Taxes on share ownership", a guide to the different taxes that may occur when buying and selling shares; "What is a nominee?", outlining the implications of holding your shares in a nominee account; and "Shareholder rights", a simple explanation of your entitlements as a shareholder in a company. To obtain the *Investor Updates*, send an A4 stamped, self-addressed envelope to ProShare, Library Chambers, 13-14 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5BQ.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	5.75	Yly
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	Invest Direct	Postal	£500	6.40	Yly
Abbey National 0800 174635	Bonus Postal	Postal	£2,000	6.75D	Qly
Alliance & Leic BS 0645 228858	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	6.85	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£25,000	6.75	Yly
Leopold Joseph 0171 5882323	40 Day Notice	40 day	£10,000	6.71	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£1,000	6.35	Yly
Irish Permanent 0800 973321	Extra Post	60 day p	£3,000	6.50	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.35	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	7.15	Yly
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 592588		5 year	£500	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

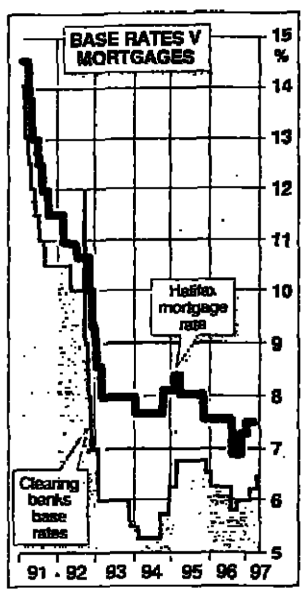
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

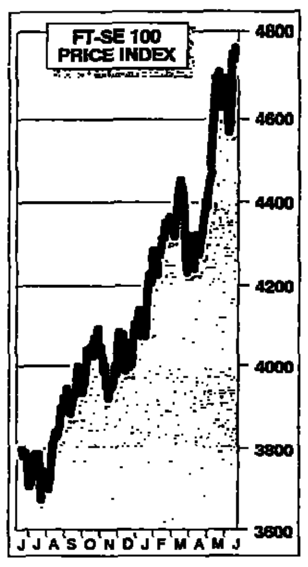
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	11.90%H	£112.82	£102.49
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	13.90%A	£112.07	£101.33
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95	£101.45

Nb. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lenders existing customers. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, D = Rate includes bonus, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*₅	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**⁷	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* ₆	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond₄	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†₂ ₃	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds ₆	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
10th Index Linked†₃	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 ₆	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000₅	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₃Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but cred in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£ 9,551	£10,594	£11,952
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 9,508	£10,557	£11,987
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,404	£10,496	£11,900
Norwich Un ....Level	£ 9,468	£10,476	£11,816
Equitable Lf..........Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,865	£ 9,673	£10,860
Generali ....Level	£8,656	£ 9,516	£10,704
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,750	£ 9,513	£10,664
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,761	£ 9,510	£10,607
Canada Life ....Level	£8,653	£ 9,471	£10,665

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,379	£8,962	£ 9,789
Generali ....Level	£8,325	£8,959	£ 9,829
Stalwart ....Level	£8,243	£8,938	£ 9,722
Prudential ....Level	£8,386	£8,921	£ 9,743

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 8393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at June 12, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.65
	10,000	AIG Life	6.05
	20,000	AIG Life	6.20
	50,000	AIG Life	6.30
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.40
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.30
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.35
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.65
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.31
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	7.00

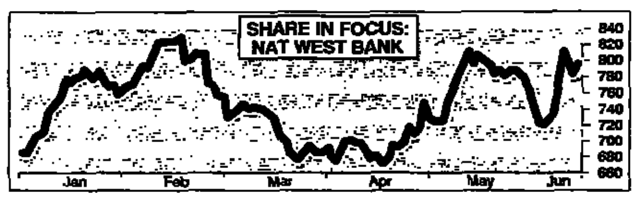
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222 Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	113.01	8.272	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	138.35	8.403	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	154.62	8.408	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	159.63	8.379	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	154.62	8.408	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	144.36	8.354	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	138.85	8.463	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	159.06	8.409	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	128.66	8.328	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	150.18	8.406	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	152.34	8.288	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	153.14	8.407	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	114.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	104.50	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0800 412214	4.95	£30-150k	95	3% discount to 1.7.98
Northern Rock 0800 591500	4.69	to £100k	90	Fixed to 1.7.99
Nationwide 0800 302010	4.75	£150-300k	90	2.60% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.77%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Midland 0800 494 999	4.35	£100k+	80	3% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0990 133149	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% disc-6mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Staffordshire 0800 216121	1.49	to £200k	80	6% discount to 1.9.98
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.77%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	4.60	£15-150k	95	3% discount to 5.1.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Derbyshire 01332 841000	4.20	to £250k	95	3.15% discount for 1 year
Newbury 01635 43676	4.35	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Mansfield 01246 202055	1.35	£25-250k	90	6% discount 6 mth
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.77% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.89	to £125k	75	Fixed to 31.5.99

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd (01753 880482)

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 552 231

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
General Acc	735.10	787.00	+ 29.30	2.25
General Inc	651.80	692.50	+ 25.50	2.25
[illegible]	542.60	576.50	+ 19.70	2.19
[illegible]	348.90	371.70	+ 12.70	2.19
Higher Inc Acc	958.10	1016.50	+ 36.20	3.73
[illegible]	506.60	537.80	+ 18.00	3.73
[illegible]	221.20	232.60	+ 9.00	5.08
[illegible]	94.46	99.77	+ 4.09	5.08
Nth American	399.60	424.10	+ 11.40	
Europe	424.70	451.50	+ 6.40	0.05
Intl Growth	197.20	208.10	+ 4.20	2.37
[illegible]	[illegible]	140.70	+ 3.30	4.45
[illegible]	87.23	92.00	+ 2.15	4.35
Global Opps	115.60	122.80	+ 2.10	..
Balanced Acc	70.71	75.43	+ 1.02	2.06
Balanced Inc	65.25	69.53	+ 0.95	2.06
Japan Acc	44.50	47.39	+ 0.56	
Pac Basin Acc	404.30	430.70	- 8.53	0.89

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed Int	134.80	143.10†	+ 3.63	6.51
High Inc Equity	208.60	222.90	+ 7.29	4.35
Worldwide Bond	279.60	297.10†	+ 7.00	3.87
American Growth	484.00	510.70	+ 12.00	0.33
Asian Pacific	128.40	136.90	- 2.30	0.18
Assets & Earnings	299.30	321.10†	+ 7.30	2.68
Euro Capital Acc	224.70	240.30	+ 4.20	0.83
Extra Inc	42.58	45.79†	+ 0.55	7.02
General	302.90	323.40	+ 3.60	2.34
Global Opps	90.59	96.73	+ 1.10	0.47
Japan	106.60	114.00	+ 2.29	
Managed Inc	51.51	54.52†	+ 0.86	4.12
Mastertrust	189.10	202.20	+ 3.60	1.19
US Emerging Cos	186.70	199.10	- 1.00	
Ethical	86.24	91.72†	+ 1.40	1.79
International	152.90	163.60	+ 2.70	0.94
Dividend & Growth	77.51	82.46	+ 2.42	4.07
Global Gwth & Sec	76.50	81.66	+ 0.13	2.47
Latin American	91.76	97.63	+ 4.2	0.40
Capital Reserve	149.30	149.40	+ 0.10	4.68

ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0141 275 8600

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
N&P UK Growth	105.40	112.40	+ 3.50	2.82
Equity Income	139.70	147.50	+ 5.00	3.84
Extra Income	255.40	264.00	+ 2.70	6.00
Smaller Cos	100.60	115.50	- 0.90	1.54
International	119.00	126.60†	- 3.10	1.31

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	161.52	173.74†	- 2.99	0.75
UK Equity	108.35	115.64	+ 3.10	2.94
UK Equity & Bd	62.96	66.73	+ 1.27	8.11
UK Smlr Cos	53.66	57.40	- 0.06	1.65

CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Inv Fd Inc	858.30	871.31	+ 10.94	3.67
Inv Fd Acc	988.37	982.51	+ 10.19	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	158.51	159.15	+ 1.01	8.99
Fxd Int Sec Acc	162.11	162.77	+ 0.93	

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	866.33	879.43	+ 27.41	3.93
Investment Acc	4086.42	4148.18	+ 106.67	
Fixed Int Inc	131.17	131.69	+ 0.25	8.01
Fixed Int Acc	249.52	250.52	+ 0.48	

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5966

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Beckston Intl	87.97	92.74	+ 0.03	5.40
Beck Bus-Tech	40.44	43.94†	+ 0.35	
Acorn Ethical Tst	199.70	209.70†	+ 1.79	0.45
City Hse Assets	85.01	89.27	- 0.75	1.86
City Fin Intl	95.26	100.03†	+ 0.53	0.06
Front Hse Cap	330.03	351.10	+ 5.08	2.27
Duckles Wrld Grth	148.95	157.89	- 0.49	..
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	62.63	65.77		3.25
Stow Utilities	69.34	70.85†	+ 1.83	4.91

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Emerging Markets	62.34	66.14	+ 0.56	.

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0345 772 233

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
American Gwth	91.74	97.60	+ 3.13	
Europe Growth	73.65	78.77	- 7.51	0.35
Equity High Inc	105.15	111.70†	+ 3.51	3.43
-do- Accum	155.76	164.82	+ 5.21	3.42
Extra Income Inc	27.60	29.28	+ 0.18	6.89
Extra Income Acc	31.48	33.16	+ 0.21	6.89
European Gwth	76.86	81.33	+ 2.52	0.13
Evergreen	33.58	35.97	+ 0.74	
General Equity	123.64	130.49	+ 3.78	2.46
Japan Growth	45.44	48.34	+ 0.74	
Tiefenbrun Gwth	73.20	77.46	+ 1.88	1.85
Pml Sm Cos Inc	38.94	42.28†	+ 0.07	1.30
-do- Accum	42.77	45.28	+ 0.07	1.30
Retirement Inc #	31.89	33.93	+ 0.97	5.32
Special Sits	52.98	56.97	+ 1.34	2.54
UK & Overseas	68.88	72.89	+ 1.08	0.53

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	271.30	289.00†	+ 1.20	.
Income & Growth	254.80	271.10†	+ 7.08	4.08
-do- Accum	416.90	443.50†	+ 11.30	4.08
Intl Growth	462.80	493.70†	+ 10.90	.
-do- Accum	513.90	547.70†	+ 12.10	
Japan & Gen	163.60	173.70	+ 3.30	
-do- Accum	165.30	175.40	+ 3.40	
Monthly Inc #	221.80	236.00†	+ 4.40	4.26
-do- Accum #	227.60	242.10†	+ 5.70	4.26
Managed Port Inc	132.30	139.30	+ 4.00	1.29
-do- Accum	145.48	153.10	+ 5.00	1.29
Quarterly Income #	61.29	65.60†	+ 1.67	5.07
-do- Accum #	72.40	77.50†	+ 1.98	5.07
Recovery	357.30	382.10	+ 3.90	
-do- Accum	421.80	451.10	+ 4.70	
UK Growth	74.73	79.50†	+ 2.48	1.79
-do- Accum	82.58	87.83†	+ 2.75	1.79

FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS
Dealing 01722 716835 Enq 01722 715834

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
FP American	74.43	79.17	+ 3.07	0.01
FP Am Small Cos	213.30	227.50†	+ 2.10	.
FP Asian Growth	290.00	300.30	8.30	.
FP Australian	467.90	499.00	+ 1.90	
FP Equity Dist	528.00	561.00†	+ 19.20	2.00
-do- Accum	1186.00	1265.00	+ 44.00	2.00
FP Euro Gth	353.00	376.50	+ 8.60	
-do- Accum	386.70	412.40	+ 9.40	
FP Intl Bond	56.61	59.80	+ 0.19	4.10
FP Intl Gth Dist	43.20	46.09	+ 1.05	.
-do- Accum	63.45	67.68	+ 1.53	
FP Pac Basin Acc	229.70	245.00	- 7.70	..
FP Income #	66.16	70.57†	+ 2.56	4.42
-do- Accum #	240.40	256.40	+ 9.30	4.42
FP Jap Smllr Cos	256.90	274.00	+ 5.80	.
FP Monthly Dist #	82.40	87.89†	+ 2.06	5.08
FP Stlg Deposit	100.80	100.80	+ 0.10	5.16
FP Tokyo	79.16	84.43	+ 1.67	
FP UK Focus	49.43	52.72	+ 1.84	1.46
FP UK Growth	233.70	249.20	+ 9.40	1.64
-do- Accum	475.40	507.00	+ 19.20	1.64
Stewardship Dist	463.90	494.80†	+ 3.60	1.22
-do- Accum	590.30	629.50	+ 4.70	1.22
Stewardship Inc Dist #	80.25	85.59†	+ 1.22	4.78
-do- Accum #	113.50	121.00	+ 1.80	4.78
N Am Stshp Dist	149.30	159.70	+ 2.40	0.04
-do- Accum	160.60	171.30	+ 2.40	0.04
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	117.00	117.50†	+ 2.40	2.90
Inst Ethical Ac #	118.30	118.80	+ 2.50	2.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	142.60	151.70†	+ 3.10	0.56
Opon Cap Gth Acc	144.50	152.70†	+ 1.80	
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	128.80	137.00	+ 2.60	2.66
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	137.90	146.70	+ 2.70	2.66
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	132.10	141.50	+ 2.20	2.66

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Japan Smllr Cos	188.00	199.29	+ 1.39	
Pacific Smlr Cos	237.95	253.50	- 4.65	
North American	385.55	409.12	+ 15.80	
American Smaller	193.89	206.01	- 5.31	

HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income & Growth #	177.50	187.30	+ 3.50	4.64

HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS
0181 686 4355

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
British	144.56	151.68†	+ 5.50	1.40
Capital	230.56	241.42	+ 6.04	1.54
Dollar	585.02	612.59	+ 21.56	.
Enterprise Gth	465.49	487.42	+ 11.57	0.84
European	323.72	338.97	+ 5.74	0.07
Far East	300.28	314.43	- 10.29	0.57
Financial	1307.95	1369.58	+ 43.05	1.23
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	27.53	28.64†	+ 0.13	6.52
High Yield #	127.09	133.08†	+ 5.12	4.43
Income & Growth #	190.57	197.55†	+ 7.10	3.30
International	327.07	342.48	+ 7.80	0.34
Japanese General	189.87	198.82	+ 1.45	..
Japan Tech	88.00	92.15	+ 0.40	
Nat Resources	80.75	84.55	+ 0.85	0.49
Portfolio	92.60	96.97	+ 3.12	1.29
Special Sits	233.27	244.27	+ 6.03	0.05
UK Emerging Cos	135.48	141.86	- 0.14	1.03
US Smaller Cos	169.98	177.99†	+ 2.12	.

HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	741.00	790.80	+ 24.80	4.57
UK Growth	818.20	873.70	+ 21.70	1.42
High Income #	130.90	139.70†	+ 3.40	5.44
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	746.30	788.90	+ 36.90	0.27
European Gwth	178.40	189.40	+ 3.00	0.19
Japan Gwth	273.40	290.50	+ 6.10	
Japan Smllr Cos	29.34	31.42	+ 0.68	
Asian	62.93	67.16	- 2.21	
Sing & Malay Gwth	84.09	89.74†	- 1.84	
Hong Kong Gwth	209.00	221.90	- 10.80	0.71
Global Bond	21.37	22.51	+ 0.07	4.80
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	198.50	198.50	+ 6.50	2.76
Trojan Index	135.00	138.50	+ 1.43	2.51
THE FOOTSIE FUND	73.07	79.47†	+ 2.80	2.49
Index Funds-International				
American Index	357.90	359.70	+ 15.50	0.75
Eurotrack 100	234.90	236.10	+ 5.10	0.99
Japan Index	70.58	70.93	+ 1.46	0.13
Tiger Index	182.10	186.30	- 3.00	0.68

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Status Gwth	211.70	225.80	+ 1.90	0.89
New Japan	89.58	94.61	+ 2.99	

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
0171 581 3020

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
World Health	212.70	226.20	+ 1.00	
Income #	250.93	266.94	+ 4.90	3.89
UK Growth	95.97	102.09	+ 1.93	1.81
Intl Growth	96.84	103.02	+ 0.04	0.54
Ecology	113.24	120.46	+ 1.86	0.86
European	241.79	257.22	+ 4.07	0.19
Far Eastern	334.80	356.10	- 9.10	
UK Special Sits	61.33	65.41	+ 1.07	0.37
Fd of Inv Tsts	59.94	63.93†	+ 1.35	
High Income #	56.65	60.42	+ 1.21	4.63

MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European Growth	119.89	127.54	+ 1.77	0.35
Intl Bond	62.30	65.44†	+ 0.09	4.79
Intl Equity Growth	96.03	102.00†	+ 1.66	0.43
N Amer Growth	163.16	173.24	+ 6.40	0.65
Special Sits Growth	32.25	34.30	+ 1.03	2.01
UK Growth	534.79	568.90	+ 19.48	2.46
-do- Accum	745.97	793.58	+ 27.17	2.46

MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD
01820 825867

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Fd #	1563.60	1585.50†	+ 24.70	2.70
Income #	1142.90	1159.60	+ 33.90	4.40

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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS
Dealers: 0171 956 7354

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	104.20	107.70†	+ 0.60	6.88
Euro Prw Inc	118.00	125.50	+ 1.80	2.75
-do- Accum	118.00	125.50	+ 1.80	2.75
Gilt Yield	122.30	129.00†	+ 0.40	6.27
Global Income	256.10	272.40†	+ 3.70	2.94
High Yield	187.00	198.80	+ 5.70	4.69
-do- Accum	630.60	670.90	+ 19.00	4.69
Money Market	100.11	100.11†	+ 0.08	5.80
Smllr Cos Div	65.57	69.76†	+ 0.07	3.71
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	1109.00	1125.00†	+ 34.00	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	171.90	182.90	+ 2.20	
Asian Growth	311.50	331.40	- 9.80	..
-do- Accum	366.00	389.40	- 11.60	..
North American	128.60	136.80	+ 4.30	.
European Special	151.30	160.80	+ 1.20	1.03
European	210.50	223.90†	+ 4.30	0.61
-do- Accum	280.00	297.90†	+ 5.70	0.61
Global Eqty Inc	137.80	146.70	+ 3.30	1.91
Japan	386.90	411.60†	+ 6.10	
Japanese Special	204.10	217.10	+ 3.20	

MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Maldon General	185.90	190.10†	+ 0.40	4.02

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0800 363432

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
High Inc #	99.95	103.00†	+ 1.30	6.39
M & S Inv Pfolio	200.50	206.70	+ 4.30	2.31
-do- Accum	240.30	247.80	+ 5.30	2.31
UK Sel Pfolio	181.10	186.70†	+ 6.20	2.29
-do- Accum	222.90	229.80†	+ 7.60	2.29
UK 100 Cos	142.10	142.10	+ 5.50	2.35
-do- Accum	145.70	145.70	+ 5.70	2.35

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 384 842

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	72.59	77.22	- 0.29	3.34

MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Income	95.80	101.70†	+ 2.80	3.23
European	121.10	128.60	+ 2.60	0.32
Income #	96.61	102.60†	+ 3.65	3.76
Nth American	114.40	121.40†	+ 1.50	0.01
Far East	199.30	211.60†	- 2.50	0.15
Japan	65.33	69.35	+ 0.98	.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	97.92	104.10	- 2.00	
Master Tech	74.90	79.69	+ 0.80	1.28
-do- Accum	86.48	92.60	+ 0.97	1.29
Millennium Acc	103.70	115.70†	- 0.10	2.09
N American Gen	283.20	302.70	+ 10.50	
-do- Accum	334.70	356.10	+ 12.20	.
N Am Sm Co Acc	204.10	217.20	+ 2.60	
-do- Accum	208.30	221.00	+ 2.66	
Pacific Basin	246.00	261.80	- 8.80	0.29
-do- Accum	262.20	279.00	- 9.50	0.29
Safety First Acc	105.80	111.45	+ 2.20	1.77
Do dntl 12.5.98 #	99.27			

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Monthly Income	105.87	111.80†	- 2.90	4.32
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	162.30	172.70	+ 5.70	1.91
European Growth	158.50	168.10	+ 0.70	
Gilt & Fixed	107.00	113.50	+ 0.30	6.19
Income	121.75	129.50	+ 3.90	3.99
Japan Growth	45.90	48.65	+ 0.91	
Managed	94.56	100.60	+ 1.72	2.38
Money Market	98.75	104.70	+ 0.10	5.32
North American	130.20	138.00	+ 4.30	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits	159.10	169.30	- 1.40	1.47
-do- Accum	178.70	190.10	- 1.50	1.47
Technology	730.90	777.50	- 1.10	
UK Blue Chip	104.80	111.50	+ 3.40	2.69
-do- Accum	119.50	127.40	+ 4.00	2.69

PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD
UT Dealing: 0345 406000 Client Enq: 0345 835500

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	50.90	52.75	+ 0.89	1.73
Cash Haven Inc	101.23	101.72†	+ 0.08	5.39
Cash Haven Acc	122.16	122.76	+ 0.10	5.39
Dist Trust Inc	114.69	118.95	+ 2.51	5.14
Dist Trust Acc	133.08	137.91	+ 2.93	5.14

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	536.70	403.50	+ 12.30	2.31
Europe Inc	563.50	594.80	+ 11.50	0.47
Nth Amer Inc	375.50	396.70	+ 14.10	
Global Inc	291.50	308.00	+ 7.50	0.45
Global Acc	315.40	333.20	+ 8.00	0.45
UK Spec Sits Inc	152.60	159.10	+ 4.20	1.73
South East Asia	221.40	234.00	- 5.20	0.15
Cash Trust Inc	100.10	100.10	...	5.69
UK Smlr Cos Inc	129.40	136.70	+ 0.50	1.71
-do- Accum	135.10	143.60	+ 0.50	1.71
Intl Bond Inc	90.41	94.39	+ 0.68	4.82
International Strat	88.79	94.03	+ 0.93	

RACING: EASTERBY OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO UNRAVEL COMPETITIVE SIX-FURLONG HANDICAP

Double Action can deliver net profit

By Chris McGrath

AS A means of getting your eye in for Royal Ascot, having a bet on the William Hill Trophy at York this afternoon might seem akin to a rusty batsman being asked to pad up against Devon Malcolm in the nets.

With a 19-runner, bookmaker-sponsored sprint handicap as the cornerstone of Channel 4's coverage, it is not difficult to imagine punters starting the royal meeting on Tuesday with the financial equivalent of two front teeth missing.

But there is a plausible look about Double Action — and not only for those taking an interest at generous odds today. For he is trained by Tim Easterby and ridden by Kieren Fallon, whose combination with Bollin Joanne in Friday's Wokingham Handicap yesterday inspired further ante-post support (10-1 from 16-1 with Coral).

It is the booking of Fallon that indicates some sort of light is about to emerge from under Double Action's bushel. A winner at Thirsk last year, Double Action has not been able to show his best in three starts this term, notably when badly drawn over five furlongs for the last two. He is undoubtedly capable of better, and the return to his favoured distance can enable him to prove the point.

Double Action (3.40) is out of *Final Shot*, who won the Ayr Gold Cup in the mud for Peter Easterby — a fact that offers encouragement that he will handle the softish ground. It might also suggest that the art of preparing a horse for a big handicap can be learned on a father's knee.

Lynda Ramsden, another northern trainer noted for a deft touch with handicappers, provides the favourite, Bishops Court. But he is 7lb higher than when failing under a penalty here last time and there are more enticing possibilities about Return Of Amin, who may just need further but has shaped well when poorly drawn of late.

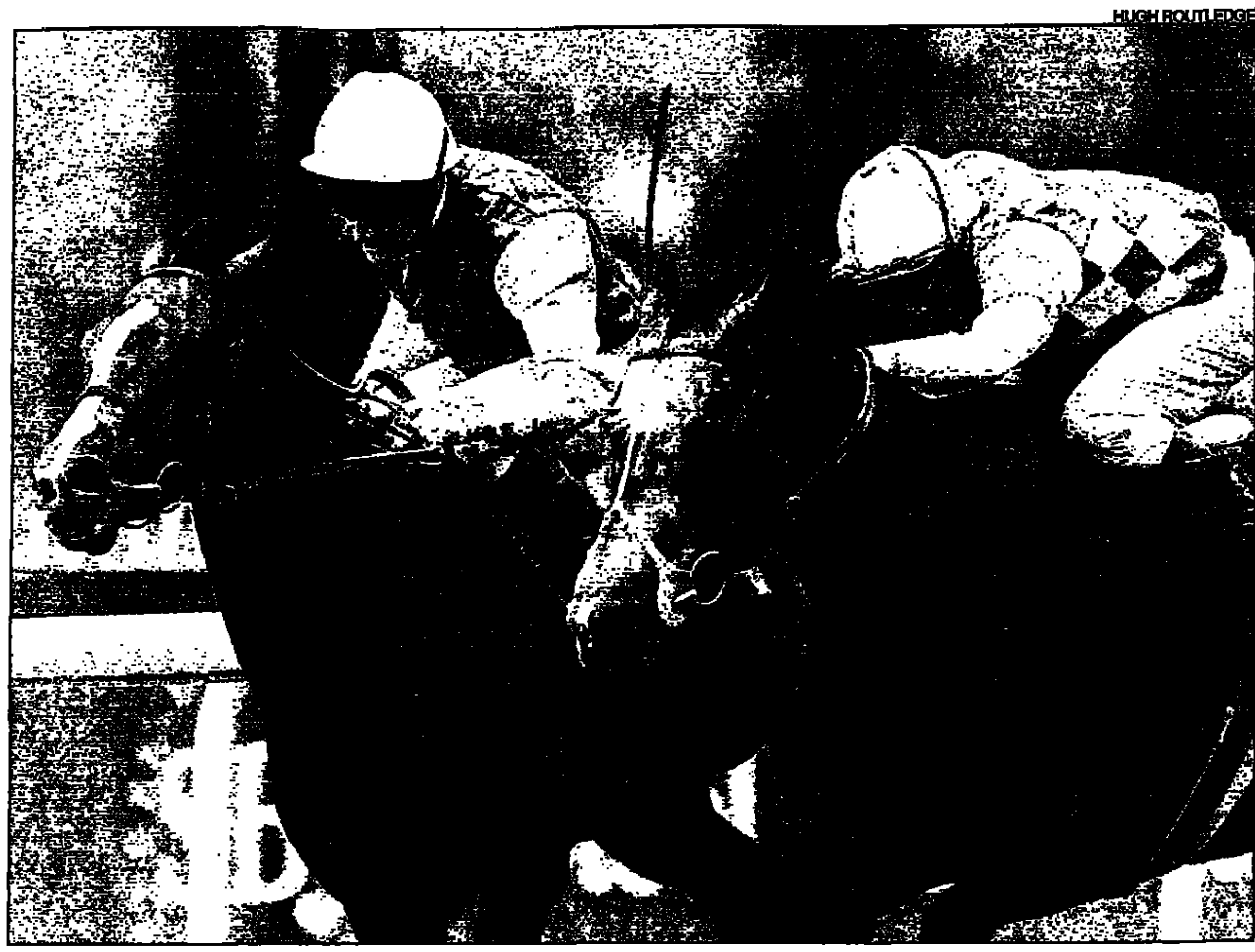
Easterby can tee up a double with **Sandmoor Chambray** (3.10) in the Cadogan Silver Salver Handicap, a race the gelding won last year. His reappearance at Doncaster showed him to be at least as good as ever and he has not been ridden with the same enterprise since. High Premium and Dreams End, those remarkable nine-year-olds, will capitalise on any further conservatism.

Break The Rules (4.15) should win the Queen Mother's Cup for women riders if Amanda Perrett can coax him into repeating his recent Chester display, when he was tailed off until grabbing the bridle. She was in the irons for his previous victory at Doncaster, and Martin Pipe saddled the then obscure Make A Stand to win this 12 months ago.

Al Azhar and The Prince bring encouraging reports to the last televised race, the Daniel Prenn Royal Yorkshire Rated Handicap (4.45), but Mark Prescott's **Union Town** (4.45) has arguably achieved better form, with four victories from five outings.

His Salisbury form has been questioned because of a slow pace, but the Generous colt would not have been suited by it. He has run only on fast ground, however, so caution is advised. The time for recklessness is next week.

TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Orsay, right, gets the better of Game Ploy in the Devitt Insurance Services Handicap at Sandown yesterday

Fallon favourite to be top rider at Royal Ascot

By Chris McGrath

KIEREN FALLON has been made 5-4 on by Coral to win the London Clubs Trophy for leading rider at Royal Ascot next week, partly as a result of diminishing opposition to Sleepytime, his mount in the Coronation Stakes on Wednesday. The 1,000 Guineas winner will face no more than six rivals, although they include the winner of the Irish equivalent, Classic Park.

Classic Park's trainer, Aidan O'Brien, may run Mingling Glances into the bargain, but she is also engaged in the Jersey Stakes on the same card. Also doubly represented is Saeed bin Suroor, with Ocean Ridge and Moonlight Paradise, respectively fifth and tenth behind Sleepytime at Newmarket. The other acceptors, Khassah and Rebecca Sharp, are likewise unraced since finishing down the field in the Guineas.

Fallon, the season's leading jockey, also rides the first-day "banker" in Bosra Sham, like Sleepytime one of a number of strong candidates for Henry Cecil.

The contrasting fortunes of Frankie Dettori are reflected in a quote of 7-1. Dettori is banned for the last day of the meeting, and Coral favours Olivier Peslier at 11-2 and Pat Eddery at 6-1.

Peslier, the French champion who has earned such a following on his cross-Channel visits, rode his first group one winner in this country at last year's meeting aboard Shake The Yoke in the Coronation Stakes.

The increasingly international flavour of the meeting sees two Irishmen quoted next in the betting — Mick Kinane on 8-1 and Christy Roche at 12-1 — and there is even a price of 66-1 against Gary Stevens, the brilliant American who warms up for Ascot by riding at Sandown today.

Reg Akehurst warned yesterday that Tregaron, the ante-post favourite for the Royal Hunt Cup on Wednesday, is not a certain runner. "He did a bit of work this morning and I was pleased with him, but I've not been over happy with his previous work," Akehurst said. "I'll make a decision on Monday."

[illegible]

Nap: LAWAHIK
(4.45 York)
Next best: Dreams End
(3.10 York)

YORK

THUNDERER

2.10 Foist
2.40 Bemsha Swing
3.10 Dreams End
3.40 Return Of Amin
4.15 Raffles Rooster
4.45 Lawahik
5.15 Illusion

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Success And Glory. 3.40 **SILENT MIRACLE (nap).** 4.45 The Prince.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

102 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.10 MICHAEL SOBELL SILVER TANKARD HANDICAP
(£8,238: 6f) (23 runners)

101	(4)	001033	SO INTREPID 5 (D,F,G,S) (E A Hayward) J Bradley 7-10-0	Pat Eddery	96
102	(11)	3-0000	JO MELL 14 (G) (C Newton Jnr) T Easterby 4-9-13	L Charnock	98
103	(6)	002330	JUST BOB 3 (D,F,G,S) (J Fotherby) S Kettlewell 8-9-11	Jenny Benson (7)	95
104	(1)	000331	BENZOE 12 (CD,F,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 7-9-11	J Fortune	●
105	(17)	110066	ANTONIAS MELODY 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs B Georgiou) S Bowring 4-9-9	S Webster	89
106	(8)	0-5000	DON'T CARE 15 (B,D,G) (C McLaren) Miss L Perratt 6-9-6	T E Durcan (5)	94
107	(23)	-64100	THE GAY FOX 14 (F) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 3-9-6	G Duffield	92
108	(16)	312140	FOIST 8 (D,G,S) (D Spence) M W Easterby 5-9-6	G Parkin (5)	93
109	(22)	0-6200	BARITONE 30 (B) (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 3-9-5	J Reid	89
110	(14)	640-03	BRECONGILL LAD 8 (D,F,G) (Three Horse Shoes) Miss S Hall 5-9-5	K Darley	89
111	(3)	3-1110	MANSAB 85 (D,BF,G) (Mrs L Murphy) P Murphy 4-9-5	S Drowne	97
112	(21)	40-062	THWAAB 14 (V,D,F) (J Blythe) F Watson 5-9-5	K Fallon	98
113	(18)	000-65	ERUPT 37 (V,D,S) (P Richardson) G Balding 4-9-4	M Hills	89
114	(7)	05-005	U-NO-HARRY 10 (D,F) (D Copperhall) R Hollinshead 4-9-3	F Lynch	90
115	(12)	-00006	BAYIN 17 (D,F,G,S) (T Barker) M Usher 8-9-3	R Street	95
116	(20)	000221	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 18 (B,F,G) (A Black) M W Easterby 4-9-3	T Lucas	93
117	(13)	040-20	MR SPEAKER 29 (D,F) (Hintlesham Racing) C Wall 4-9-2	L Dettori	90
118	(19)	302310	AFAAN 8 (V,D,F) (E Gray) R Marvin 4-9-2	T G McLaughlin	90
119	(10)	-00100	HALMANERROR 7 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Smith) Mrs J Ramsden 7-9-2	M Gallagher	89
120	(9)	113103	GREY KINGDOM 7 (D,F,G) (M Britain) M Brittain 6-9-1	D Mernagh (7)	91
121	(2)	0-0003	THE WAD 10 (D,F,G) (W Kelly) D Nicholls 4-9-0	J Weaver	91
122	(15)	60-603	GWESPYR 16 (F,G) (M al-Shualbi) R Hannon 4-8-13	Dane O'Neill	98
123	(5)	100-03	ANTARCTIC STORM 18 (F) (Northumbria Leisure) R Fahey 4-8-13	A Culhane	94

BETTING: 6-1 Benzoe, 7-1 Brecongill Lad, Thwaab, 8-1 Blessingindisguise, 10-1 So Intrepid, Foist, 12-1 Baritone, Bayin, Gwespyr, 14-1 others.

1996: DAAWE 5-9-4 M Deering (10-1) Mrs V Aconley 22 ran

FORM FOCUS

SO INTREPID about 1l 3rd of 14 to French Grit in 14-runner handicap at Pontefract (6f, good to firm). BENZOE beat Carmonneur 1½l in 15-runner handicap at Thirsk (5f, good to firm). FOIST beat Naissant ¾l in 13-runner handicap at Hamilton (6f, soft). THWAAB short-head 2nd of 10 to Kilcullen Lad in handicap at Lingfield (6f, good to firm) with SO INTREPID (5lb better off) 2½l 3rd. BLESSINGINDISGUISE beat Moon Strike ½l in 13-runner handicap at Redcar (5f, good to firm) with ANTARCTIC STORM (6lb better off) 1¼l 3rd and BRECONGILL LAD (7lb better off) 3¾l 7th. HALMANERROR beat MR SPEAKER (6lb better off) by 1½l. BENZOE (2lb better off) 1¾l 8th. THE WAD (11lb better off) 4l 11th.
Selection: THWAAB (nap)

2.40 LEONARD SAINER E B F STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,260: 6f) (6 runners)

201	(5)	62	BEMSHA SWING 8 (M Pescod) R Hannon 9-0	Pat Eddery	93
202	(6)		CARBON (Lord Hartington) D Morley 9-0	L Dettori	–
203	(3)	553	LAKELAND PRIDE 16 (BF) (J White) P Evans 9-0	J F Egan	93
204	(1)		NAKED OAT (Supernost Ptnrs) B Smart 9-0	J Reid	–
205	(2)		SUCCESS AND GLORY (Thoroughbred Corp) H Cecil 9-0	K Fallon	–
206	(4)	2	IRIS MAY 10 (J Brown) J Berry 8-9	T E Durcan (5)	●

BETTING: 15-8 Success And Glory, 5-2 Bemsha Swing, 7-2 Iris May, 4-1 Lakeland Pride, 25-1 others.

1996: SAHM 9-0 W Carson (8-13 fav) J Dunlop 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEMSHA SWING 1¾l 2nd of 11 to Bold Fact in maiden at Goodwood (6f, good to firm). CARBON (foaled Feb 9) half-brother to several winners including 7f juvenile and 1m winner Abs and Istar 5f juvenile winner; dam 6f and 1m winner. LAKELAND PRIDE about 1½l 3rd of 14 to Minetta in auction maiden at Carlisle (6f, firm). NAKED OAT (Feb 20) first foal; dam unraced daughter of useful juvenile sprinter Babita. SUCCESS AND GLORY (Apr 30, cost 300,000gns) seventh foal, half-brother to River Falls, useful juvenile. IRIS MAY 2½l 2nd of 9 to Yorkies Boy in maiden at Chester (5f, good to firm).
Selection: SUCCESS AND GLORY

3.10 CADOGAN SILVER SALVER HANDICAP C4
(£10,943: 1m 205yd) (16 runners)

301	(5)	1000-0	REBEL COUNTY 157 (D,F,G,S) (Showtime Ice Cream) A Bailey 4-10-0	Dane O'Neill	93
302	(8)	-30001	BAND ON THE RUN 7 (C,F,G,S) (D Allen) B McMahon 10-9-10	L Newton	96
303	(6)	635-00	CENSOR 7 (F) (G Leatham) D Nicholls 4-9-10	K Darley	89
304	(1)	511313	HIGH PREMIUM 25 (D,F,G,S) (J Parsons) R Fahey 9-9-9	R Winston (7)	94
305	(16)	15202/	JAMEEL ASMAR 627 (F,G) (P Leonard) C Egerton 5-9-5	J Fortune	–
306	(11)	02-400	SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 7 (CD,F,G) (Sandmoor Ltd) T Easterby 6-9-4	J Carroll	98
307	(7)	144-36	DREAMS END 42J (G,S) CD) (T Price) P Bowen 9-9-2	K Fallon	●
308	(4)	0-0030	WAKEEL 19 (BF,G,S) (Mrs J Churston) S Dow 5-9-2	J Reid	93
309	(9)	-42315	MELS BABY 27 (BF,F,G,S) (J Roberts) J Eyre 4-9-1	T Williams	98
310	(2)	405-01	PHONETIC 27 (S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 4-9-1	S Drowne	93
311	(13)	344250	MASTER BEVELED 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 7-8-12	J F Egan	95
312	(15)	014023	TAKHLID 3 (D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 6-8-7	A Culhane	96
313	(3)	2400-0	MBULWA 27 (D,F,G,S) (Northumbria Leisure) R Fahey 11-7-13	L Charnock	87
314	(10)	-21604	EUROBOX BOY 2 (F) (N Coverdale) A Jarvis 4-7-12	D Wright	95
315	(14)	010560	PAINT IT BLACK 5 (F,G) (M Scaife) D Nicholls 4-7-10	Iona Wands (5)	88
316	(12)	003224	NOBBY BARNES 12 (D,F,G) (E Incisa) E Incisa 8-7-10	Kim Tinkler	77

Long handicap: Paint It Black 7-9, Nobby Barnes 6-7

BETTING: 5-1 Sandmoor Chambray, Dreams End, 6-1 Phonetic, 7-1 High Premium, 9-1 Band On The Run, 12-1 Takhlid, Wakeel, Master Beveled, 16-1 others.

1996: SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 5-8-13 M Birch (6-1 jt-fav) T Easterby 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

BAND ON THE RUN beat Bollin Frank neck in 13-runner handicap at Haydock (1m, good to firm) with SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY (4lb better off) about 9l 9th and MASTER BEVELED (5lb better off) 15l 12th. HIGH PREMIUM beat Golden Thunderbolt head in 19-runner handicap at Beverley (1m 100yd, good). DREAMS END about 1¼l 3rd of 20 to Romios in handicap at Kempton (1m 2f, good to firm). MELS BABY beat Premier Generation ½l in 9-runner handicap at Beverley (1m 2f, heavy). PHONETIC beat MASTER BEVELED (3lb better off) neck in 17-runner handicap at Newbury (1m, soft) with WAKEEL (3lb better off) 1l 3rd. TAKHLID 1¼l 3rd of 10 to Philistar in handicap Hamilton (1m 65yd, good).
Selection: DREAMS END

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Morley	8	23	34.8	L Dettori	41	181	22.7
H Cecil	24	94	25.5	Pat Eddery	34	195	17.4
M Prescott	4	17	23.5	G Duffield	8	55	14.5
M Stoute	24	124	19.4	J Reid	20	147	13.6
G Wragg	6	34	17.6	K Fallon	14	129	10.9
Lady Herries	6	38	15.8	M Hills	13	129	10.1

Blinkered first time

LEICESTER: 6.45 Swan Island. 9.15 Brin-Lodge. LINGFIELD PARK: 6.30 Dancing Lawyer, Bagshot, On The Green. MARKET RASEN: 2.45 Comic's Future. 3.45 Super Coin. 4.20 Nobodys Flame. SANDOWN PARK: 2.20 Chief Predator, Blue Hopper. 3.30 Dalliance. 4.00 Renzo, Sharaf. YORK: 2.10 Baritone, Afaan. 4.45 Premier Bay

3.40 WILLIAM HILL TROPHY C4
(Handicap: 3-Y-O: £35,109: 6f) (19 runners)

401	(5)	1-3313	BISHOPS COURT 31 (D,BF,G,S) (D Brotherton) Mrs J Ramsden 9-7	J Fortune	91
402	(17)	1210-0	VAX STAR 46 (F,G) (Vax Ltd) J Spearing 9-7	S Drowne	89
403	(6)	21-501	TRIPLE HAY 12 (D,F,G) (Broadgate Partners) R Hannon 9-7 (7ex)	Pat Eddery	90
404	(4)	0-5413	SHARP HAT 14 (D,F,G,S) (J Smith) R Hannon 9-3	Dane O'Neill	93
405	(19)	111151	TREASURE TOUCH 28 (D,F,G) (N Honeyman) D Nicholls 9-1	Iona Wands (5)	93
406	(10)	24-146	CADEAUX CHER 14 (D,F) (N Browne) B Hills 8-13	M Hills	91
407	(15)	13-002	YORKIE GEORGE 12 (D,G,S) (M Dawson) L Cumani 8-12	L Dettori	97
408	(14)	6400-0	FOR YOUR EYES ONLY 30 (D,F,G) (R Griffin) T Easterby 8-12	J F Egan	92
409	(12)	0-1405	ZARETSKI 7 (F) (B Vosk) C Brittain 8-12	R Hills	94
410	(2)	421-04	RESTLESS SPIRIT 8 (D,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Johnston 8-11	J Weaver	96
411	(13)	13-050	DOUBLE ACTION 28 (F) (C Stevens) T Easterby 8-11	K Fallon	94
412	(3)	12-150	DAYVILLE 14 (D,F,G) (T Holdcroft) J Berry 8-11	K Darley	95
413	(1)	151110	BRUTAL FANTASY 28 (D,F,G,S) (Diamond Racing) J Eyre 8-10	R Lappin	90
414	(18)	60-204	DOUBLE-J 10 (F) (D Armitage) K McAuliffe 8-9	W J O'Connor	96
415	(11)	332-02	SELECT CHOICE 52 (L Fust) A Jarvis 8-6	J Reid	96
416	(9)	62-101	PRINCE DOME 10 (D,F) (G Jones) M Wane 8-5 (7ex)	J Carroll	●
417	(16)	-33216	SILENT MIRACLE 30 (D,G) (M Khan) M Bell 8-2	R Mullen (5)	92
418	(8)	1-3003	STYLE DANCER 12 (D,F) (Mrs C Hodgetts) R Whitaker 7-11	Martin Dwyer (3)	97
419	(7)	-42465	RETURN OF AMIN 8 (G,S) (A Dahlawi) J Bethell 7-10	P Fessey (3)	97

Long handicap: Return Of Amin 7-5.

BETTING: 7-2 Bishops Court, 9-2 Yorkie George, 7-1 Triple Hay, 8-1 Restless Spirit, 10-1 Sharp Hat, 12-1 Treasure Touch, Return Of Amin, Silent Miracle, 16-1 others.

1996: MALLIA 7-10 L Charnock (14-1) T Barron 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

BISHOPS COURT beat DOUBLE-J (15lb better off) 2l in 13-runner handicap at Chester (6f, soft). TRIPLE HAY beat YORKIE GEORGE (9lb better off) neck in 8-runner handicap at Windsor (6f, good to firm). SHARP HAT beat Alamsiyah 3l in 13-runner handicap at Newbury (6f, soft) with RESTLESS SPIRIT (9lb better off) 18l 9th. TREASURE TOUCH beat Swino head in 11-runner handicap at Thirsk (5f, good) with DOUBLE ACTION (7lb better off) about 5l 7th, BRUTAL FANTASY (7lb better off) 5l 8th and PRINCE DOME (1lb better off) 3l 10th. BRUTAL FANTASY beat Ellens Lad neck in 12-runner handicap at Doncaster (5f, good to firm) with BISHOPS COURT (3lb worse off) 2l 3rd. PRINCE DOME beat Always Alight short-head in 8-runner handicap at Newcastle (6f, firm) with DOUBLE-J (7lb better off) 3½l 4th.
Selection: TRIPLE HAY

4.15 QUEEN MOTHER'S CUP C4
(Handicap: lady amateurs: £10,845: 1m 3f 195yd) (14 runners)

501	(1)	0305-0	STORY LINE 30 (S) (Story Line Ptns) D Arbuthnot 4-11-0	D Arbuthnot	88
502	(4)	030-26	CELESTIAL CHOIR 56J (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs C Sykes) J Eyre 7-10-12	Diana Jones	89
503	(12)	02-31	DANISH RHAPSODY 17 (F) (C Hardy) Lady Herries 4-10-7	M Cowdrey	95
504	(13)	231-11	BREAK THE RULES 39 (D,F,G,S) (A Lomas) M Pipe 5-10-6	A Perrett	96
505	(11)	043050	HAZARD A GUESS 32 (C,D,F,G,S) (Consultco) D Nicholls 7-10-4	J Allison	97
506	(10)	516320	RASAYEL 10 (C,D,F,G) (Penlons Haulage) P Evans 7-9-10	K Chilton	97
507	(3)	1-0001	VERIDIAN 21 (D,F,S) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-9-9	A Elsey	97
508	(9)	-04345	TEMPTRESS 21 (D,F,S) (P Barrett) J A Harris 4-9-6	T Spearing	92
509	(2)	0-3231	SHAFFISHAYES 23 (D,F,G) (P Davidson-Brown) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-2	S Bosley	94
510	(5)	122125	RAFFLES ROOSTER 31 (D,G) (M Leatham) A Newcombe 5-9-2	E Ramsden	97
511	(14)	-00060	CHARTER 7 (C & M Ptns II) W Storey 6-8-12	C Ford	85
512	(7)	4030-2	LEVITICUS 27 (Mrs S Worthington) T Tate 3-8-11	A Deniel	●
513	(8)	5-0003	NOSEY NATIVE 21 (F,S) (J Pearce) J Pearce 4-8-11	L Pearce	96
514	(6)	002442	SHEROY 3 (F) (Miss N Thesiger) S Kettlewell 5-8-10	C Williams	93

BETTING: 6-1 Veridian, Leviticus, 7-1 Break The Rules, Shaffishayes, 8-1 Danish Rhapsody, 10-1 Nosey Native, Sheroy, 16-1 others.

1996: MAKE A STAND 5-9-4 L Pearce (5-2 fav) M Pipe 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

DANISH RHAPSODY beat Virtual Reality neck in 10-runner handicap at Folkestone (1m 1f 149yd, good to firm). BREAK THE RULES beat Kuala Lipis neck in 16-runner handicap at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good). VERIDIAN beat Ledgendry Line 2l in 7-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm) with TEMPTRESS (7lb better off) about 8½l 5th. SHAFFISHAYES beat Eagle Canyon ¾l in 4-runner handicap at Newcastle (1m 4f 93yd, good). RAFFLES ROOSTER neck 2nd of 11 to The Butterwick Kid in handicap at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, heavy) with RASAYEL head 3rd. NOSEY NATIVE about 1l 3rd of 12 to North Reef in handicap at Warwick (1m 3f, good to firm).
Selection: NOSEY NATIVE

4.45 DANIEL PRENN ROYAL YORKSHIRE RATED HANDICAP C4
(3-Y-O: £9,217: 1m 2f 85yd) (6 runners)

601	(4)	1114-1	UNION TOWN 41 (D,F) (F Salman) M Prescott 9-7	G Duffield	●
602	(6)	314	LAWAHIK 21 (D,G) (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 9-6	R Hills	98
603	(5)	421	THE PRINCE 14 (F) (I MacNicol) G Wragg 9-3	M Hills	87
604	(3)	22-434	PREMIER BAY 7 (B,S) (Prince Cartel) P Harris 9-3	J Reid	97
605	(1)	211-	AL AZHAR 275 (F,G) (Al Muallim Ptns) I Balding 9-0	Pat Eddery	90
606	(2)	011120	JACK THE LAD 7 (D,F,G,S) (K West Ptns) J Hetherton 8-4	L Charnock	96

Long handicap: Jack The Lad 8-3.

BETTING: 2-1 The Prince, 3-1 Al Azhar, 7-2 Union Town, 13-2 Lawahik, 7-1 Premier Bay, 10-1 Jack The Lad.

1996: SASURU 9-7 M Hills (13-2) G Wragg 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

UNION TOWN beat Ginzbourg 1l in 6-runner handicap at Salisbury (1m 2f, firm). LAWAHIK beat Double Alleged 5l in 9-runner maiden at Ripon (1m 2f, good). THE PRINCE beat Bombazine 1¾l in 8-runner maiden at Newmarket (1m, good to firm). PREMIER BAY 4¾l 4th of 6 to Poseidon in conditions stakes at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to firm). AL AZHAR beat Sandbaggedagain 1l in 17-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) Sep 96. JACK THE LAD beat Kala Sunrise ¾l in handicap at Beverley (1m 100yd, good to soft).
Selection: AL AZHAR

5.15 CHARLES HENRY MEMORIAL MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £5,420: 7f 202yd) (4 runners)

1	(3)	2	ILLUSION 21 (BF) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 9-0	J Reid	90
2	(1)	40-22	PRESENT CHANCE 11 (I Geise) B McMahon 9-0	L Newton	86
3	(4)	03	SHARBADARID 18 (BF) (H Aga Khan) L Cumani 9-0	L Dettori	70
4	(2)	2	RADIANCY 38 (J Rowles) J Leigh 8-9	D McKeown	●

BETTING: 13-8 Illusion, 3-1 Sharbadarid, Radiancy, 7-2 Present Chance.

1996: KUALA LIPIS 9-0 T Quinn (4-1) P Cole 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

ILLUSION ½l 2nd of 10 to Byzantium in maiden at Kempton (1m, good). PRESENT CHANCE 4l 2nd of 9 to Elnadim in maiden at Pontefract (6f, good to firm). SHARBADARID 11½l 3rd of 10 to St Blaine in maiden at Carlisle (1m, firm). RADIANCY neck 2nd of 10 to Bed's Ruby in maiden at Chester (7f, soft).
No selection

☐ **Shantou, last year's St Leger winner, spearheads a five-strong British challenge for the group one Gran Premio di Milano tomorrow. Also chasing the prize are Strategic Choice (trained by Paul Cole), Luso and Needle Gun (Clive Brittain) and Taipan (John Dunlop).**

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: **Brighton** (first race, 2.15), **Musselburgh** (2.00), **Pontefract** (Sky, 6.45), **Windsor** (Sky, 6.30).

TUESDAY: **Royal Ascot** (BBC, 2.30), **Thirsk** (2.15).

WEDNESDAY: **Hamilton Park** (2.10), **Nottingham** (Sky, 6.50), **Ripon** (Sky, 7.00), **Royal Ascot** (BBC, 2.30), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.20), Worcester (6.40).

THURSDAY: **Ripon** (2.10), **Royal Ascot** (BBC, 2.30), Southwell (AW, 2.20).

FRIDAY: **Ayr** (2.10), **Goodwood** (Sky, 6.30), **Newmarket** (Sky, 6.45), **Redcar** (2.20), **Royal Ascot** (BBC, 2.30).

SATURDAY: **Ascot** (BBC, 2.00), **Ayr** (2.15), Lingfield Park (AW, Sky, 6.15), **Redcar** (2.10), Wolverhampton (AW, Sky, 7.00), Southwell (1.55).

Flat meetings in bold

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SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Katah. 2.20 Double Gold. 2.55 **SUPERIOR FORCE (nap).** 3.30 Dalliance. 4.00 Coh Sho No. 4.35 Crowded Avenue. 5.05 Warningford.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 EBF PORTMAN SQUARE MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O fillies: £3,209: 5f 6yd) (7 runners)

1	(7)		ALPHA WHISKY I Balding 8-11	R Cochrane	–
2	(5)		FRANKIE FAIR M Jarvis 8-11	M Roberts	–
3	(2)	0	GIPSY MOTH 28 B Meehan 8-11	M Tebbutt	–
4	(1)	5	KATAH 17 J Gosden 8-11	G Hind	83
5	(6)	3	MIDSUMMER NIGHT 3 R Hannon 8-11	R Perham	●
6	(3)	0	RESPOND 28 G L Moore 8-11	Candy Morris	71
7	(4)		STOP OUT H Morrison 8-11	C Rutter	–

5-4 Katah, 7-4 Midsummer Night, 5-1 Alpha Whisky, Gipsy Moth, 12-1 others.

2.20 PHILIP RING MATURITY CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,710: 1m 2f 7yd) (4)

1	(2)	0434	CHIEF PREDATOR 4 (B) R Hannon 8-9	R Perham	98
2	(1)	2110	DOUBLE GOLD 12 (D,F,G) B Meehan 8-5	T Quinn	●
3	(3)	-000	EURO SUPERSTAR 16 S Dow 8-4	S Sanders	71
4	(4)	-000	BLUE HOPPER 4 (V) M Channon 8-3	P P Murphy (3)	86

10-11 Double Gold, 9-4 Blue Hopper, 4-1 Chief Predator, 16-1 Euro Superstar.

2.55 JOHNSTONE DOUGLAS HANDICAP
(£3,583: 1m 14yd) (17)

1	(17)	-444	KAILEY SENOR 14 R Armstrong 4-10-0	M Roberts	95
2	(12)	00-0	DESERT TIME 19 (D,F) C Horgan 7-9-6	D Holland	–
3	(15)	0000	ZERMATT 19 (D,F,S) M Usher 7-9-1	B Doyle	95
4	(11)	3-20	BABA AU RHUM 21 (BF) I Williams 5-9-0	A Clark	98
5	(6)	4046	SEA DANZIG 8 (G) J Bridger 4-9-0	R Cochrane	96
6	(10)	13-4	THATCHMASTER 8 (CD,F,G) C Horgan 6-8-13	D Harrison	94
7	(5)	5000	BALANCE OF POWER 19 (D,F,G) S Dow 5-8-13	W Ryan	98
8	(1)	03-0	MISSILE TOE 45 (F) D Morris 4-8-12	N Day	91
9	(12)	-546	JUPITER 40 (BF,G) G Bravery 3-8-11	M Rimmer	97
10	(7)	4656	SUPERIOR FORCE 24 (CD,F,G) Miss B Sanders 4-8-11	S Sanders	95
11	(8)	64/0	HOPEFUL BID 7 (F,G) P Howling 8-8-10	N Carlisle	–
12	(3)	4-60	BROUGHTONS ERROR 12 (G) W Musson 3-8-10	J Quinn	90
13	(16)	2434	INTERDREAM 12 (BF,F) R Hannon 3-8-4	R Perham	98
14	(2)	3500	SOAKING 14 (D,F,G) M Usher 7-8-2	D R McCabe	98
15	(4)	0000	MULTI FRANCHISE 16 (D,F,G) R Flower 4-8-2	G Hind	90
16	(9)	-054	JONA HOLLEY 18 G L Moore 4-7-11	C Rutter	●
17	(14)	-406	VELVET JONES 11 G Charles-Jones 4-7-10	G Bardwell	91

7-2 Interdream, 6-1 Jupiter, 7-1 Broughtons Error, 8-1 Baba Au Rhum, Thatchmaster, 10-1 Sea Danzig, Superior Force, Velvet Jones, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Williams, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; J Gosden, 20 from 102, 19.6%; J Fanshawe, 12 from 63, 19.0%; H Cecil, 14 from 79, 17.7%; D Loder, 7 from 42, 16.7%; M Prescott, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: G Carter, 11 winners from 55 rides, 20.0%; M Roberts, 25 from 168, 14.9%; T Quinn, 25 from 195, 12.8%. Only qualifiers

3.30 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES
(Handicap. 3-Y-O: £7,068: 1m 1f) (9)

1	(2)	0512	DALLIANCE 7 (V,D,BF,G) M Stoute 9-7	D Holland	97
2	(8)	15	MANAZIL 18 (G) R Armstrong 9-2	G Carter	88
3	(5)	5-10	SIR TALBOT 58 (F) R Hannon 9-1	R Perham	93
4	(4)	4-01	TAL-Y-LLYN 27 (S) B Hills 8-12	W Ryan	●
5	(7)	31-	RUDIMENTAL 338 (G) M Prescott 8-10	S Sanders	89
6	(9)	-000	MALADERIE 14 (F) M Channon 8-7	P P Murphy (3)	98
7	(3)	0000	BRANDON JACK 14 (G,S) I Balding 8-7	R Cochrane	94
8	(1)	-001	OUR WAY 17 (F) C Brittain 8-5	B Doyle	94
9	(6)	0334	CITY GAMBLER 7 G Bravery 8-4	D Harrison	97

11-4 Dalliance, 4-1 Our Way, 5-1 Tal-Y-Llyn, 6-1 Brandon Jack, 7-1 Manazil, City Gambler, 8-1 Sir Talbot, 10-1 others.

4.00 BERKELEY SQUARE HANDICAP
(£3,583: 1m 6f) (9)

1	(5)	1-05	RENZO 18 (B,F) Mrs A Perrett 4-10-0	A Clark	90
2	(2)	6-44	PSICOSSIS 19 H Cecil 4-9-10	W Ryan	87
3	(7)	230-	TUDOR ISLAND 259 (CD,F,G) C Brittain 8-9-3	B Doyle	90
4	(6)	26-5	TAUFAN BOY 14 (G) P Harris 4-9-9	N Day	90
5	(8)	-234	SIEGE PERILOUS 31 (D,F,S) S C Williams 4-9-3	D Holland	93
6	(1)	0601	CHRIS'S LAD 7 (B,C,D,F,G,S) B Meehan 6-8-15	M Tebbutt	95
7	(4)	0-13	ALARICO 123 (G) I Williams 4-8-12	G Stevens	●
8	(3)	0-14	COH SHO NO 34 (F) S Dow 4-8-4	S Sanders	89
9	(9)	5055	SHARAF 34 (V,F) W Muir 4-8-2	J Quinn	83

9-4 Chris's Lad, 5-1 Siege Perilous, 6-1 Psicossis, 7-1 Tudor Island, Taufan Boy, Alarico, Coh Sho No, 10-1 others.

4.35 LEICESTER SQUARE CONDITIONS STAKES
(£4,477: 5f 6yd) (9)

1	(1)	0-46	DARK AGE 5 (G) R Akehurst 4-9-4	D Denby (7)	58
2	(3)	0300	BOWDEN ROSE 14 (B,D,BF,F,G) M Blanshard 5-9-1	J Quinn	83
3	(7)	-536	CROWDED AVENUE 14 (CD,F,G) P Makin 5-9-0	S Sanders	94
4	(8)	-532	VENTURE CAPITALIST 3 (BF,F,G) D Nicholls 8-9-0	Alex Greaves	●
5	(4)	030-	FOND EMBRACE 276 (D,F,S) H Candy 4-8-9	G Carter	88
6	(6)	-403	JOHNNY STACCATO 3 (S) J Eustace 3-8-7	R Cochrane	92
7	(2)	5-21	KILCULLEN LAD 14 (V,D,F,G) P Mooney 3-8-7	W Ryan	79
8	(9)	1	WELLSPRING 22 (G) D Loder 3-6-6	G Stevens	73
9	(5)	14-0	LOVING AND GIVING 77 (D,F) H Candy 3-6-2	C Rutter	72

11-4 Venture Capitalist, 4-1 Wellspring, 5-1 Crowded Avenue, 11-2 Johnny Staccato, Kilcullen Lad, 10-1 Fond Embrace, 16-1 Bowden Rose, 20-1 others.

5.05 GROSVENOR SQUARE MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,404: 7f 16yd) (6)

1	(2)	50	BALLADARA 3 R Hannon 9-0	R Perham	70
2	(4)	0-	COLD LAZARUS 249 R Phillips 9-0	G Hind	72
3	(5)	-246	SHAWM 8 D Loder 9-0	G Stevens	●
4	(1)	54	WARNINGFORD 40 (BF) J Fanshawe 9-0	D Harrison	93
5	(3)	4	BINT SHIHAMA 17 C Brittain 5-9	B Doyle	81
6	(6)	50-2	FREE AS A BIRD 9 M Channon 8-9	P P Murphy (3)	80

5-4 Shawm, 15-8 Warningford, 3-2 Free As A Bird, 10-1 Bint Shihama, 25-1 Balladara, 33-1 Cold Lazarus.

☐ **Willie Muir saddled his fifth winner in a week when Orsay held off Game Ploy by a neck in the Devitt Insurance Services Cup at Sandown yesterday.**

BATH

THUNDERER

2.00 White Plains. 2.30 Islamabad. 3.05 Matthias Mystique. 3.35 Petarga. 4.05 Sooty Tern. 4.40 Walkabout. 5.10 Ned's Bonanza.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 JUNE CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,570: 1m 2f 46yd) (12 runners)

1	06-0	BRIGHSTONE 23 (F) D Elsworth 4-10-0	A McGlone	3
2	1060	WHITE PLAINS 14 (D,F) M Pipe 4-10-0	R Hughes	4
3	0-00	ERIC'S BETT 18 (G) P Murphy 4-9-6	J Lowe	6
4	000-	NORTHERN SAGA 242 C Drewe 4-9-4	T Sprake	7
5	0000	RACING HAWK 4 (D,F) M Saunders 5-9-4	R Price	9
6	045-	ANOTHERONE TO NOTE 105J A Chamberlain 6-9-0	J Bramhill (5)	1
7		SANS PERE 290J N Babbage 4-9-0	F Norton	8
8	0000	AMNESTY BAY 12 (G) M Usher 5-8-11	J Marshall	5
9	06/0	NABURN LOCH 15 D Hyde 7-8-9	R Havlin (3)	10
10	46-0	SCOTTISH PARK 15 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 8-8-9	M Henry (3)	11
11	5004	WARRIOR KING 21 Mrs P Duffield 3-8-4	A Whelan (3)	12
12	0-00	MISS MEZZANINE 14 E Wheeler 3-8-0	S Carson (7)	2

5-4 White Plains, 4-1 Warrior King, 6-1 Brighstone, 7-1 Scottish Park, 10-1 others.

2.30 EBF PUMP ROOM NOVICE STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,181: 5f 11yd) (6)

1	5646	MISTER BANKES 3 (D,BF,S) W G M Turner 9-2	D McGaffin (7)	3
2		I CRIED FOR YOU R Hannon 8-12	R Hughes	6
3	2	ISLAMABAD 12 G Lewis 8-12	Paul Eddery	2
4		MONTE LEMOS R Charlton 8-12	T Sprake	1
5	013	GYPSY HILL 22 (CD,G) C Haydn Jones 8-11	S Whitworth	5
6	014	PERSIAN FORTUNE 16 (D,G) W G M Turner 9-9	D Sweeney (5)	4

5-4 Islamabad, 7-2 Gypsy Hill, 4-1 Mister Bankes, 7-1 Monte Lemos, 12-1 Persian Fortune, 16-1 I Cried For You

3.05 BARBARA KNIGHT'S 70TH BIRTHDAY HANDICAP
(£3,443: 2m 1f 34yd) (8)

1	1633	PARADISE NAVY 10 (B,BF,CD,F,G) C Egerton 8-9-10	R Hughes	5
2	221-	FAIRLY SHARP 15J (G) Graeme Roe 4-9-9	M Fenton	8
3	0-42	RUSSIAN ROSE 17 (F) J Toller 4-9-6	Paul Eddery	7
4	1362	MATTHIAS MYSTIQUE 10 (G) Miss B Sanders 4-8-12	T Sprake	4
5	/035	BRIDE'S PRIDE 21 G Ham 6-7-13	J Fowle (7)	3
6	3400	SUITOR 12 S Dow 4-7-10	F Norton	6
7	5465	COLERIDGE 10 (B,CD,F,G,S) J Sheehan 9-7-10	N Varley	2
8	410-	CHUCKLESTONE 276J (CD,F,G) J King 14-7-10	N Adams	1

3-1 Paradise Navy, 7-2 Fairly Sharp, 9-2 Russian Rose, 5-1 Matthias Mystique, 8-1 Coleridge, Chucklestone, 12-1 Bride's Pride, 16-1 Suitor

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Charlton, 16 winners from 42 runners, 38.1%; H Candy, 4 from 16, 25.0%; Lord Huntingdon, 5 from 27, 22.2%; M Bolton, 3 from 15, 20.0%; D Elsworth, 7 from 36, 19.4%.

JOCKEYS: M Henry, 9 winners from 40 rides, 22.5%; R Hughes, 12 from 72, 16.7%; Paul Eddery, 11 from 73, 15.1%; D Biggs, 3 from 27, 11.1%; T Sprake, 10 from 100, 10.0%.

3.35 CHARLCOMBE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,918: 5f 11yd) (12)

1	560	ALPEN WOLF 7 W Muir 8-12	T Sprake	4
2	06	BLUE SHADOW 17 R Hannon 8-10	R Hughes	3
3	0	HOH JUSTICE 49 I Balding 8-10	S Whitworth	7
4		PRAETORIAN GOLD R Hannon 8-8	R Smith (7)	6
5		QUAKERESS John Berry 8-5	M Fenton	2
6	5000	MAGICAL DANCER 14 Mrs P Duffield 8-4	A Whelan (3)	8
7	42	PETARGA 15 J Toller 8-4	Paul Eddery	10
8	00	REGALO 21 D Hyde 8-4	J D Smith (3)	9
9		DANCE TO THE BEAT M Meade 8-1	F Norton	11
10	0	MUJA'S MAGIC 5 K Ivory 8-0	J Lowe	12
11		AMIASAPPHIRE R Hodges 7-13	N Varley	1
12		KATHIES PET R Hodges 7-13	Amanda Sanders (5)	5

11-10 Petarga, 7-2 Hoh Justice, 9-2 Alpen Wolf, 6-1 Blue Shadow, 10-1 Praetorian Gold, 14-1 Amiasapphire, Kathies Pet, 16-1 others

4.05 BECKFORD TOWER HANDICAP
(£3,488: 1m 5yd) (9)

1	0000	NIGHT WINK 8 (D,F,G) G L Moore 5-10-0	S Whitworth	9
2	4041	SOOTY TERN 11 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 10-9-9	J Fowle (7)	2
3	1-00	WHAT HAPPENED WAS 25 (F) M Meade 3-9-6	F Norton	7
4	0-03	JALB 40 A Stewart 3-9-3	Paul Eddery	5
5	0-20	NOEPROB 12 (CD,BF,F,G,S) R Hodges 7-8-10	Amanda Sanders (5)	3
6	0004	CONFRONTER 11 (D,G,S) S Dow 8-8-8	R Hughes	8
7	-011	BLUE IMPERIAL 15 (CD,F) J Hills 3-8-7	M Henry (3)	6
8	0360	SILVER PURSE 7 (C,F) A P Jones 3-8-7	D Sweeney (5)	1
9	06-1	VANBOROUGH LAD 26 (CD,F,G,S) M Bolton 8-7-10	J Lowe	4

3-1 Blue Imperial, 4-1 Sooty Tern, 5-1 Noeprob, Silver Purse, 6-1 Vanborough Lad, 7-1 Jalb, 8-1 Confronter, 10-1 others

4.40 BEDMINSTER LIMITED STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,542: 1m 3f 144yd) (8)

1	0141	SUDEST 15 (C,F) I Balding 9-1	S Whitworth	5
2	2210-	LUDO 8 (BF,F) R Hannon 8-13	R Hughes	3
3	343	FARLEY MOUNT 19 Lord Huntingdon 8-11	T Sprake	4
4	0-60	MR MUSIC 8 K McAuliffe 8-11	M Henry (3)	1
5	660-	PRAIRIE MINSTREL 263 R Dickin 8-11	D Sweeney (5)	2
6	00-0	STAHR 26 H Candy 8-11	N Adams	6
7	004	WALKABOUT 14 B Hills 8-11	Paul Eddery	7
8	3413	EPONINE 3 (G) M Channon 8-10	F Norton	8

2-1 Sudest, 3-1 Eponine, 7-2 Ludo, 5-1 Farley Mount, 10-1 Walkabout, 20-1 Stahr, 33-1 others.

5.10 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP
(£3,625: 5f 161yd) (9)

1	1605	SPENDER 18 (C,D,F,G) P Harris 8-9-10	M Henry (3)	6
2	-040	DEPRECIATE 21 (D,G) C James 4-9-10	R Hughes	7
3	0205	KILDEE LAD 14 (CD,F,G) A P Jones 7-9-8	J D Smith (3)	5
4	1440	JUST LOUI 15 (D,G) W G M Turner 3-9-4	D Sweeney (5)	4
5	1323	GI LA HIGH 75 (BF,G) M Meade 4-8-11	F Norton	9
6	0002	MINDRACE 5 (V,C,F) K Ivory 4-8-3	D Biggs	8
7	4106	MERANTI 29 (D,F) J Bradley 4-8-1	J Fowle (7)	2
8	0030	NED'S BONANZA 3 (D,BF,F,G) M Dods 8-8-0	Paul Eddery	3
9	0300	LORD SKY 21 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-7-12	N Adams	1

7-2 Gi La High, 4-1 Ned's Bonanza, 5-1 Mindrace, 6-1 Meranti, 7-1 Spender, Kildee Lad, 8-1 Just Loui, 12-1 others

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RUGBY UNION: COACH WARNS OF GRUELLING ENCOUNTER

Lions are put on the right scent by Keast

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DURBAN

IF THERE is one team against whom the British Isles should be well prepared, it is Natal, whom they play at King's Park here today. Andy Keast, the Lions technical coach, spent two years working for the Natal Rugby Union during the period in which they came to dominate the Currie Cup and he knows them as individuals and as a collective entity.

Keast, who has confirmed his continuing role as director of coaching with Harlequins for next season in the wake of Dick Best's dismissal, also watched Natal open their Currie Cup defence against Western Province last weekend and returned bearing the latest word about the offensive and defensive patterns that the Lions are likely to encounter. It will be, he believes, a gruelling encounter.

"Natal have this confidence; they do not believe they can be beaten," Keast said yesterday. "Like Northern Transvaal and Gauteng, they will try to wear us down up front before they expand the game, but they will not regard this as a pressure game — the Lions offer a different challenge to Currie Cup opponents and they will want to enjoy themselves."

This is the appeal, for South Africans, of the Lions. They differ from all the sides that they have seen before, players know that this could be their only opportunity to play against the best of the northern hemisphere. *The Lions have pulled* in substantial crowds wherever they have been — 38,000 watched them beat Gauteng 20-14 on a cool, damp Wednesday evening — and King's Park, even under grey skies and in a strong wind, should be no different.

However, Natal will be shorn of internationals. The South Africa squad has taken away André Joubert, that most elegant of full backs, Mark Andrews, Gary Teichmann and Adrian Garvey from the pack, and Henry Honiball from stand-off.

Only Pieter Muller, the experienced centre, has been released from the national squad. This still leaves them with six capped players, among them John Allan, the former Scotland hooker whose 127th and last appearance this will be before he joins *London Scottish as player-coach.*

Gavin Lawless, the leading scorer in the Super 12 tournament (including 50 in Natal's 75-43 demolition of Otago in March) plays full back and they have opted for Robert du Preez at scrum half, despite advancing years. Du Preez, never the most placid of players, won the last of his seven caps four years ago.

It is an area that the Lions might look to disrupt, putting pressure on Scriba the way that Neil Back did to young Louis van Rensburg, the Gauteng stand-off. Back's form will force the best from Richard Hill and lift his game a further notch.

Many preconceptions of this Lions tour have already been destroyed, hence the presence in the front row today of Tom Smith who, if he produces another sound display, could well appear at loose-head prop against South Africa next Saturday. Today also represents a last opportunity for Allan Bateman and Scott Gibbs, the Wales centres, who began the tour as frontrunners: now it is a matter of who partners Jeremy Guscott in the internationals and that is as likely to be Will Greenwood as either of the Welshmen, who have suffered injury and suspension.

The Lions management remains unconcerned at the prospect of not giving the international XV a run together before next Saturday, believing that the significant units within the team will have played enough together — at daily training — and *will be even happier when South* Africa name their team this weekend so that the Lions can prepare against specific opponents; though the only change expected from the side that beat Tonga 74-10 on Tuesday, assuming no injury problems — is at lock, *where Andrews should be preferred* to Hannes Strydom.

TEAMS

NATAL SHARKS: G Lawless; J Joubert, J Thompson, P Muller, S Payne; H Scriba, R du Preez; R Kempson, J Allan, A-H le Roux, W van Heerden, N Wegner, J Slade, W Fyvie (captain), D Kriese.

BRITISH ISLES XV: N Jenkins (Pontypridd and Wales); I Evans (Llanelli and Wales), A Bateman (Richmond and Wales), S Gibbs (Swansea and Wales), A Tait (Newcastle and Scotland); G Townsend (Northampton and Scotland), R Howley (Cardiff and Wales); T Smith (Watsonians and Scotland), K Wood (Harlequins and Ireland), D Young (Cardiff and Wales), L Dallaglio (Wasps and England), M Johnson (Leicester and England, captain), S Shaw (Bristol and England), R Hill (Saracens and England), E Miller (Leicester and Ireland).

Referee: J Meuwesen (Eastern Province)

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Johnson, the Lions captain, gets the support he wants as he leaps high to claim the ball at lineout training in Durban

TRIATHLON

Coope returns to heavy schedule

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Sarah Coope, the winner of six British and six European triathlon titles, went to Lanzarote four years ago to compete in an Ironman race, she felt tired and under the weather and did not start. Back home, she struggled through the national championships.

"We knew something was amiss because she was in good shape and that led us to find out what the problem was," Glen Cook, her partner, said. Coope, it transpired, was expecting the couple's first child and her triathlon career, which had included third place in the 1991 Hawaii Ironman race, was put on hold.

"I was so relieved that was what it was," Coope said. "I thought it might be something awful, like ME." Two daughters later, Coope makes her return to serious competition tomorrow when she lines up in the PepsiMax Royal Windsor race over the Olympic distance of 1,500 metres swim, 40 kilometres ride and ten kilometres run. Cook is optimistic that, though Sian Brice is unlikely to be challenged, a place in the first three should be within Coope's range.

Coope, 32, has participated in low-key events and finished second in the Swindon duathlon, but now she is ready to step up in triathlon. "This will be her first foray into serious competition," Cook, the 1989 world silver medal-winner, said. "Her training now has to be a lot different because of her commitments as a mum, but this is not a half-hearted effort."

The couple, from Eastbourne, both former professionals, run a fitness and nutrition business and incorporate their training into work and sharing family duties. "Between 6.30 and 9am, we will each try to get one training session in while the other one looks after the children," Cook said. "Then we both fit in another session during the day."

Cook has charge of the children tomorrow, but will be willing Coope on. "She has not lost any of her professional edge," he said. "The biggest thing for me is that she comes away and says: 'I enjoyed that.' If she says she enjoyed it, that means she is going to do the training to move on."

Coope is the only Briton to have achieved a top-three place in the Hawaii Ironman, though Spencer Smith may be next. Smith, twice the senior world champion, is making his Hawaii debut in October, but will race over shorter distances until August. He is based in San Diego and makes his only appearance in Great Britain this season by competing at Windsor, where he starts as favourite.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

6.00 Le Grand Gousier. 6.30 Bon Secret. 7.00 Viva Verdi. 7.30 March Crusader. 8.00 Kristal Breeze. 8.30 Pennywell.

GOING. GOOD TO FIRM (TURF); STANDARD (AW)
DRAW: 6F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST (TURF)

6.00 SETTER APPRENTICE RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (AW: £2,277: 2m) (8 runners)

1 556/ BRIGHT SAPPHIRE 173J P Butler 11-9-12 T Siddall (5) 3
2 30-6 CODE RED 94J J Ffitch-Heyes 4-9-11 M Batchelor (3) 7
3 0-45 DARK WATERS 27 N Graham 4-9-11 G Milligan 2
4 3233 DUNCOMBE HALL 10 C Cyzer 4-9-11 R Sawyer (7) 6
5 0600 HAZEL 11 G Kelleway 5-9-9 Angela Gallimore (3) 1
6 0000 GRACIOUS IMP 7 J Jenkins 4-9-8 S Carson (5) 4
7 3-60 GREENWICH FORE 40 T Mills 3-8-5 P Clarke (5) 5
8 0045 LE GRAND GOUSIER 5 R Williams 3-8-5 Aimee Cook 8

10-11 Greenwich Fore, 2-1 Le Grand Gousier, 6-1 Dark Waters, 12-1 Duncombe Hall, 33-1 others.

6.30 RETRIEVER SELLING HANDICAP (£1,985: 7f) (18)

1 2300 HANNAH'S USHER 3 (F,G) C Murray 5-10-0 Nicola Howarth 5
2 66-0 ROY BOY 14 C Horgan 5-10-0 D Harrison 4
3 6540 SHASHI 110 (F,G) Pat Mitchell 5-10-0 P Bloomfield 9
4 -550 DANCING LAWYER 2 (B,D,F,G) B Meehan 6-9-9 B Doyle 14
5 -506 SILVER HARROW 11 (D,F) A Newcombe 4-9-6 D Griffiths (3) 18
6 0051 DARK MENACE 11 (B,D,F) E Wheeler 5-9-5 S Carson (7) 8
7 2060 KI CHI SAGA 18 (D,G,S) M Madgwick 5-9-4 N Varley 11
8 2050 PEARL DAWN 5 (F,G) P Clarke 7-9-3 Candy Morris 3
9 4200 ABTAAL 17 (D,BF,G) R Hodges 7-9-2 R Perham 1
10 2030 BAGSHOT 38 (V,D,BF,F,G,S) G L Moore 6-9-3 C Rutter 2
11 -302 BLUSHING GRENADIER 112 (V,G,S) M Fetherston-Godley 5-9-1 D Holland 17
12 4440 THE FRISKY FARMER 12 (F,S) W G M Turner 4-9-1 D McGaffin (7) 16
13 00-0 SUPER PARK 22 (S) J Pearce 5-8-9 A Clark 6
14 0403 BON SECRET 40 (G) T Naughton 5-8-9 S Sanders 7
15 3563 SUPERLAO 10 (F,G) J Bridger 5-8-9 A Daly (5) 12
16 -555 BATTLE GROUND 9 N Callaghan 3-8-8 M Roberts 13
17 6-30 KAYZEE 114 S Dow 3-8-8 W Ryan 10
18 -600 ON THE GREEN 17 (V) A Hide 4-8-8 G Bardwell 15

9-2 Dark Menace, 11-2 Blushing Grenadier, Battle Ground, 13-2 Bon Secret, 7-1 Abtaal, 8-1 The Frisky Farmer, Kayzee, 10-1 others.

7.00 POINTER FILLIES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,252: 7f) (12)

1 4305 TAJREBAH 19 P Walwyn 9-7 D Holland 12
2 2431 SHALSTAYHOLY 7 (V,D,G) G L Moore 9-7 S Whitworth 10
3 3523 SIGNS AND WONDERS 10 (BF) C Cyzer 9-7 A Whelan (3) 3
4 60-6 DAVIS ROCK 10 (G) W Muir 9-6 M Roberts 9
5 -001 VIVA VERDI 28 (G) J Dunlop 9-5 W Ryan 7
6 1-15 HEVER GOLF LOVER 112 (BF,G) T Naughton 8-11 S Sanders 11
7 0-00 KILMEENA LADY 28 J Fox 8-10 A Clark 8
8 006- WRN PRINCESS 228 B Meehan 8-9 M Tebbutt 6
9 610 POLGWYNNE 36 (D,G) B Smart 8-5 A Daly (5) 2
10 5-00 JAVA BAY 12 M Blanshard 8-1 C Rutter 4
11 0004 KEEN WATERS 17 J Arnold 7-10 J Lowe 1
12 4056 CRACKERBOX 9 C Dwyer 7-10 D Williams (7) 5

4-1 Viva Verdi, 9-2 Shalstayholy, Signs And Wonders, 11-2 Hever Golf Lover, 7-1 Tajrebah, Polgwynne, 8-1 Davis Rock, 10-1 others.

7.30 KAY AND CHARLIE PIKE 50TH ANNIVERSARY MAIDEN STAKES (£3,773: 6f) (11)

1 4000 MAGAZINE GAP 51 Pat Mitchell 4-9-6 Amanda Sanders (5) 8
2 TASHANNAH P Hedger 4-9-1 N Varley 10
3 00 DURABLE GEORGE 28 J Bridger 3-8-12 A Daly (5) 3
4 -222 GOODBYE GATEMEN 11 (BF) B Pearce 3-8-12 G Bardwell 4
5 2 MALABI 71 J Dunlop 3-8-12 W Ryan 2
6 0442 MARCH CRUSADER 9 B Hanbury 3-8-12 J Stack 9
7 SANDY SADDLER S Dow 3-8-12 R Perham 6
8 4-0 ALWAYS ON MY MIND 14 P Makin 3-8-7 S Sanders 5
9 00- CEANOTHUS 232 W Haggas 3-8-7 M Roberts 11
10 026 FUR WILL FLY 27 I Balding 3-8-7 S Whitworth 1
11 6-3 HUSUN 11 P Walwyn 3-8-7 D Holland 7

7-2 Goodbye Gatemen, March Crusader, 4-1 Husun, 5-1 Malabi, Always On My Mind, 6-1 Fur Will Fly, 8-1 others.

8.00 INFONET HANDICAP (£3,174: 1m 2f) (13)

1 5020 ZIDAC 19 (CD,F,G) P Makin 5-10-0 S Sanders 5
2 2032 PASSAGE CREEPING 10 S Dow 4-9-11 W Ryan 6
3 000- DEBUTANTE DAYS 217 (D,F,S) A Stewart 5-9-8 D Harrison 1
4 040- LAVENDER DELLA 182 M Fetherston-Godley 4-9-4 D Holland 11
5 -000 HARVEY WHITE 11 (D,F,G) J Pearce 5-8-10 A Clark 4
6 0003 KRISTAL BREEZE 12 (D,S,F,G,S) W Muir 5-8-10 M Roberts 8
7 00-0 MOI CANARD 24 (F,G) B Pearce 4-8-7 A Daly (5) 12
8 -040 DOUBLE RUSH 12 (D,F,G) T Mills 5-8-6 G Bardwell 3
9 0-60 SOVEREIGN CREST 16 C Horgan 4-8-2 Paul Eddery 13
10 0433 SAM ROCKETT 10 G Kelleway 4-8-2 A Whelan (3) 7
11 0130 ZAMALEK 28 (D,F,G) R Flower 5-7-12 F Norton 2
12 0600 ONE IN THE EYE 7 J Poulton 4-7-10 N Varley 9
13 -000 EXECUTIVE OFFICER 19 R Flower 4-7-10 J Lowe 10

4-1 Passage Creeping, Kristal Breeze, 5-1 Zamalek, 6-1 Double Rush, Sam Rockett, 7-1 Zidac, 12-1 Sovereign Crest, 14-1 others.

8.30 BEAGLE LIMITED STAKES (AW: £2,277: 1m) (8)

1 2105 INVOCATION 79 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 10-9-12 A Clark 5
2 1536 SWEET SUPPOSIN 21 (V,CD,G) C Dwyer 6-9-10 D Harrison 1
3 0331 BENTICO 7 (V,D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 8-9-8 B Doyle 3
4 5000 HAWAII STORM 11 (CD,G,S) D Ffrench Davis 9-9-8 Kerry Baker (7) 7
R Hughes 8
5 4000 RAWI 11 (C,G) G Kelleway 4-9-8 A Whelan (3) 2
6 4104 RESIST THE FORCE 14 (CD,G) C Cyzer 7-9-8 Leesa Long 4
7 3600 INTO DEBT 39 (C,G) J Poulton 4-9-3 S Sanders 6
8 1026 PENNYWELL 46 (D,G) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-8

2-1 Pennywell, 9-4 Bentico, 4-1 Sweet Supposin, 11-2 Resist The Force, 8-1 Invocation, 20-1 Rawi

COURSE SPECIALISTS

LINGFIELD PARK: Trainers: A Stewart, 6 winners from 21 runners, 28.6%; Miss G Kelleway, 28 from 172, 16.3%; B Hanbury, 6 from 38, 15.8%; I Balding, 8 from 52, 15.4%; G L Moore, 68 from 487, 14.0%; N Graham, 8 from 57, 14.0%; N Callaghan, 14 from 101, 13.9%. Jockeys: D Holland, 45 winners from 189 rides, 23.8%; G Milligan, 4 from 20, 20.0%; Aimee Cook, 4 from 21, 19.0%, W Ryan, 30 from 165, 18.2%, S Whitworth, 40 from 255, 15.7%; D Griffiths, 8 from 53, 15.1%, M Roberts, 16 from 113, 14.2%.

MARKET RASEN: Trainers: C Brooks, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; K Bailey, 12 from 39, 30.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 20 from 80, 25.0%, J Jefferson, 6 from 26, 23.1%; M Wilkinson, 3 from 13, 23.1%; Mrs D Haine, 3 from 14, 21.4%; P Beaumont, 9 from 45, 20.0%. Jockeys: A P McCoy, 11 winners from 31 rides, 35.5%, N Williamson, 17 from 63, 27.0%, J Tilley, 6 from 25, 24.0%, R Johnson, 9 from 46, 19.6% L Wyer, 16 from 86, 18.6% P Niven, 17 from 100, 17.0%; S McNeill 4 from 24, 16.7%.

MARKET RASEN

THUNDERER

2.15 Bit Of A Dream. 2.45 Beck And Call. 3.15 Jennyellen. 3.45 Linton Rocks. 4.20 Drummond Warrior. 4.55 Vintage Taittinger. 5.25 Cue Call.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 PREMIER PLACEMENTS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,322: 2m 6f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 /P6- MOREOF A GUNNER 35 (S) J Jefferson 7-11-10 L Wyer
2 351- BIT OF A DREAM 19 (F) Mrs S Smith 7-11-6 R Guest
3 3U-2 GOLDEN DRUM 7 (B,S) T George 7-11-1 T J Murphy
4 132- IT'S NOT MY FAULT 19P (D,G,S) R Frost 9-10-13 J Frost
5 446- MIGHTY MERC 24 (F) Mrs B Broad 9-10-5 A Thornton
6 U33- QUIXALL CROSSETT 14 E Came 12-10-5 Gary Lyons
7 P00- NO TAKERS 17 (F) S Kettlewell 10-10-5 J Callaghan
8 P05- KNOCK STAR 19 R Champion 6-10-5 B Powell
9 033- BANNER YEAR 18 T Carr 6-10-5 N Williamson

5-2 Bit Of A Dream, 11-4 Golden Drum, 7-2 Quixall Crossett, Banner Year, 10-1 It's Not My Fault, 25-1 Mighty Merc, Knock Star, 33-1 others

2.45 CHARLES INSLEY PRE-NUPTIAL NOVICES HURDLE (£2,838: 3m) (12)

1 001- RUSHEN RAIDER 14 (C,F) K Hogg 5-11-7 M Foster
2 44-1 BECK AND CALL 3 (D,F) Miss V Williams 8-11-7 N Williamson
3 6P- BET WILTSHIRE 35 Mrs N Macauley 5-11-0 R Guest
4 534- HIGH SUMMER 26F T Thomson Jones 7-11-0 M A Fitzgerald
5 /P5- MOONLIGHT VENTURE 21 M Wane 5-11-0 P Niven
6 THE H'PENNY MARVEL (D) T George 7-11-0 T J Murphy
7 P45- CAN SHE CAN CAN 14 C Smith 5-10-9 M Ranger
8 /0-4 ITSGONNASHINE 3 P Bowen 8-10-9 R Johnson
9 455- LA MEZERAY 129 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Hawkins 9-10-9 Mr R Thornton (3)
10 053- QUINAG 40 K Bailey 6-10-9 A Thornton
11 /06- UR ONLY YOUNG ONCE 22 (F) Mrs D Haine 7-10-9 J F Titley
12 COMIC'S FUTURE 12F (B) J J O'Neill 4-10-7 A P McCoy

11-4 Rushen Raider, 7-2 Beck And Call, 11-2 Quinag, Comic's Future, 13-2 High Summer, 8-1 Can She Can Can, 10-1 The H'Penny Marvel, 20-1 others

3.15 LINCOLNSHIRE UNITED HUNTS CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,705: 2m 3f 110yd) (14)

1 500- BURES 21 (F,G) Mrs J Brown 6-11-10 B Grattan (5)
2 211- MAGICAL BLUES 19 (D,F,G) Miss A Embiricos 5-11-7 K Gaule
3 PP3- ROYAL CITIZEN 19 (F,G) J Bottomley 8-11-3 D Byrne
4 FF0- JENNYELLEN 19 (F,G) P Bowen 8-11-2 R Johnson
5 641- CHIEFTAIN'S CROWN 12F (F) T Hind 6-11-1 P McLoughlin
6 115- ATH CHEANNAITHE 23 (V,D,F,G) J Neville 5-11-1 N Williamson
7 F42- BODANTREE 19 (F) N Babbage 6-11-0 B Fenton
8 354- SHARP SENSATION 21 (C,F) G A Harker 7-10-13 P Niven
9 3P6- FRONTIER FLIGHT 19 (B,D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-10-10 E Husband (3)
10 01P- LADY MAGNUM 124 (BF,F) J Neville 4-10-10 N Mann
11 363- RAGAMUFFIN ROMEO 18 (F,G) S Pittendrigh 8-10-8 Mr D McPhail (7)
12 04P- INNOCENT GEORGE 35 (C,F,G) Miss L Siddall 8-10-7 R Supple
13 00-3 VINTAGE RED 8 (F) G Richards 7-10-5 Mr R Thornton (3)
14 000- WELL ARMED 17F J J O'Neill 6-10-5 A P McCoy

9-2 Magical Blues, 7-1 Chieftain's Crown, 8-1 Royal Citizen, Ath Cheannaithe, Bodantree, Ragamuffin Romeo, Innocent George, 12-1 others

3.45 TOTE BOOKMAKERS SUMMER FESTIVAL HANDICAP CHASE (£10,309: 2m 4f) (8)

1 2F1- STATELY HOME 14 (D,F,G) P Bowen 6-12-0 N Williamson
2 U41- MISTER DRUM 19 (C,D,F,G,S) M Wilkinson 8-11-3 W Marston
3 123- RABA RIBA 22 (D,F,G) J Spearing 12-11-1 V Slattery
4 113- LINTON ROCKS 13 (D,F,G,S) T Thomson Jones 8-10-10 B Powell
5 023- SUPER COIN 29 (B,BF,F,S) R Lee 9-10-4 R Johnson
6 105- NORDIC SUN 19 (CD,G,S) Mrs J Brown 9-10-3 A Thornton
7 311- WEAVER GEORGE 31 (D,F,G,S) W Storey 7-10-2 M Moloney
8 /50- MILLS MU 18 (CD,F,G,S) T Cuthbert 12-10-0 R Supple

7-2 Stately Home, 4-1 Mister Drum, Linton Rocks, 5-1 Weaver George, 11-2 Super Coin, 7-1 Raba Riba, 10-1 Nordic Sun, 100-1 Mills Mu.

4.20 UK HYGIENE FOR AIR/SMOKE FILTRATION NOVICES CHASE (£4,382: 2m 1f 110yd) (10)

1 032- BLAIR CASTLE 40 (CD,BF,F) G Balding 6-11-0 A P McCoy
2 FP6- DRAMATIC PASS 14 M Chapman 8-11-0 W Worthington
3 /3F- DRUMMOND WARRIOR 31 (BF,F) T Thomson Jones 8-11-0 M A Fitzgerald
4 /PF- FED ON OATS 40 (S) Miss V Williams 9-11-0 R Johnson
5 0P6- GOING PUBLIC 38 (F,G) P Cheesbrough 10-11-0 A Thornton
6 04P- NOBODYS FLAME 36 (B) S Pittendrigh 9-11-0 Mr D McPhail (7)
7 111- STAY WITH ME 24 (CD,F,G,S) C Egerton 7-11-0 N Williamson
8 1/0- THIS IS MY LIFE 28 (F) C Brooks 8-11-0 M Berry (7)
9 PP4- MORCAT 14 C Ratcliffe 8-10-9 Mr C Mulhall
10 U53- DASH TO THE PHONE 14 K Morgan 5-10-8 R Supple

6-4 Stay With Me, 7-4 Blair Castle, 11-2 Fed On Oats, 8-1 Dash To The Phone, 12-1 Drummond Warrior, 33-1 others

4.55 PETER RHODES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,390: 2m 1f 110yd) (12)

1 0/F- ROYAL SILVER 14 B Preece 6-12-0 A P McCoy
2 634- BLASTER WATSON 19 C Smith 6-11-6 M Ranger
3 51-0 TURRILL HOUSE 7 (D,G) W Musson 5-11-3 B Powell
4 313- TSANGA 18 (F) G M Moore 5-11-0 N Bentley
5 /23- SUSELJA 14F J Jefferson 6-10-11 L Wyer
6 652- DOWN THE YARD 9F M Chapman 4-10-10 W Worthington
7 053- APOLLONO 16 R Lee 5-10-9 R Johnson
8 00-1 VINTAGE TAITTINGER 8 (F) J Goldie 5-10-9 S Taylor (5)
9 PP0/ SMART GUEST 8F D Shaw 5-10-0 O Pears
10 U00/ SPIDERS DELIGHT 656 T Cuthbert 9-10-0 K Johnson
11 60-P PETRICO 7 P Beaumont 5-10-0 B Grattan (5)
12 PP0- GOOD VENTURE 14 S Bell 6-10-0 N Smith

7-2 Vintage Taittinger, 9-2 Down The Yard, Apollono, 11-2 Turrill House, Tsanga, Suselja, 7-1 Blaster Watson, 33-1 others.

5.25 SUMMER FESTIVAL STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,245: 1m 5f 110yd) (16)

1 BENICIA BOY J McConnochie 5-11-4 S McNeill
2 325- DOUBLE STAR 24 J L Harris 6-11-4 Mr R Thornton (3)
3 0- LYSANDER 350 Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-4 A Thornton
4 0/5- SWYNFORD KING 339 (BF) J Bottomley 5-11-4 D Byrne
5 3 TREAT ME BOLD 7 P Bowen 5-11-4 L Cummins (7)
6 DUNSTON HEATH B Preece 4-10-13 V Slattery
7 INDIAN VICEROY J Turner 4-10-13 R Supple
8 0- LUCKY TOUCH 35 W Musson 4-10-13 M Richards
9 00- PAUSE FOR THOUGHT 42 Mrs M Reveley 4-10-13 P Niven
10 PENDLETON P Beaumont 4-10-13 B Grattan (5)
11 34- SALLY SCALLY 43 A Hobbs 5-10-13 N Williamson
12 SIMPLE ALTERNATIVE S Pittendrigh 4-10-13 Mr D McPhail (7)
13 ANNIE'S KITCHEN M W Easterby 4-10-8 R Guest
14 42- CUE CALL 75 Mrs D Haine 4-10-8 J F Titley
15 NO PROBLEM JAC J J O'Neill 4-10-8 A P McCoy
16 00- TRUTHFULLY 28 S Gollings 4-10-8 M A Fitzgerald

7-2 Double Star, Sally Scally, 4-1 Cue Call, 9-2 Treat Me Bold, 8-1 Pause For Thought, 10-1 Lucky Touch, 12-1 Swynford King, 20-1 others

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

6.45 Bubbly. 7.15 Magic Rainbow. 7.45 Eva Luna. 8.15 Montano. 8.45 Blue River. 9.15 Faith Alone.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 8.45 GHATAAS.

GOING. GOOD SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

6.45 SPORTING BLUE HANDICAP (3-Y-O. £4,370: 7f 9yd) (17 runners)

1 55-5 SECRET COMBE 14 (G) P Makin 9-7 R Havlin (3) 8
2 152- SILCA KEY SILCA 260 (G) M Channon 9-5 J Fortune 10
3 -060 HALOWING 30 (F) J G Smyth-Osbourne 9-4 K Fallon 1
4 0-1 RAAHA 25 (D,S) R Armstrong 9-3 R Price 9
5 0031 BIG BEN 8 (D,F) R Hannon 9-0 Dane O'Neill 16
6 -410 BUBBLY 40 (D,BF,F) J Dunlop 9-0 K Darley 13
7 5-05 AL MASROOR 28 J Payne 8-13 A McGlone 17
8 2453 SONG MIST 9 (BF,F) P Cole 8-13 T Quinn 4
9 4-00 PERICLES 30 (G) M Johnston 8-11 J Weaver 3
10 -300 SUPREME MAIMOON 9 (D,G) M Polglase 8-9 T G McLaughlin 15
11 -046 CHEROKEE FLIGHT 14 (F) S Mellor 8-7 J F Egan 14
12 -000 INDIAN BLAZE 14 P Harris 8-6 C Lowther (7) 11
13 4130 CARLTON 8 (D,G) G Lewis 8-3 N Day 12
14 5230 SWAN ISLAND 15 (B) B Palling 8-2 S Drowne 2
15 05-0 WITH A WILL 40 H Candy 8-0 Nicola Wright (7) 7
16 3260 PET EXPRESS 28 (D,S) P Haslam 7-12 R Winston (7) 6
17 -150 MYSTERIUM 47 (D,G) N Littmoden 7-10 R Mullen (5) 5

4-1 Raaha, 5-1 Big Ben, 6-1 Song Mist, 7-1 Bubbly, 8-1 Carlton, Silca Key Silca, 10-1 Halowing, Pericles, 12-1 Cherokee Flight, 14-1 others.

7.15 TIPSTERS TABLE NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,532: 5f 2yd) (7)

1 1 PIERPOINT 12 (D,F) R Fahey 9-2 R Winston (7) 7
2 14 RUZEN 31 (CD,G) B Palling 9-2 T Sprake 5
3 BOUND TO PLEASE P Makin 8-12 T Quinn 3
4 246 IMPULSE 17 A Jarvis 8-12 K Darley 4
5 4 MAGIC RAINBOW 21 M Bell 8-12 M Fenton 1
6 0 DESERT NATIVE 21 R Hannon 8-7 Dane O'Neill 6
7 GOD KNOWS M Fetherston-Godley 8-7 J Quinn 2

2-1 Ruzen, 5-2 Magic Rainbow, 3-1 Pierpoint, 5-1 Impulse, 14-1 Desert Native, 50-1 others.

7.45 LEICESTER MERCURY STAKES (Listed race: £10,471: 1m 3f 183yd) (5)

1 0-36 KEY TO MY HEART 30 (D,F,G,S) Miss S Hall 7-9-1 J Weaver 3
2 11-3 MEDAILLE MILITAIRE 23 (D,F,G,S) J Dunlop 5-9-1 K Darley 1
3 103- SHARAF KABEER 253 (D,F,G) S bin Suroor 4-9-1 L Dettori 2
4 2-53 EVA LUNA 19 (D,F,G) H Cecil 5-8-13 K Fallon 4
5 05-4 RIVER NORTH 17 (D,G,S) Lady Herries 7-8-12 J Reid 5

2-1 Eva Luna, 9-4 Medaille Militaire, 7-2 Sharaf Kabeer, 4-1 Key To My Heart, 12-1 River North

8.15 PROPERTY GUIDE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,392: 5f 218yd) (11)

1 0 BLUE ANCHOR 23 Mrs M Reveley 9-0 A Culhane 7
2 25 BLUNDELL LANE 9 A Jarvis 9-0 K Darley 11
3 BOLD KING J Hills 9-0 M Hills 9
4 KHATTAFF W Hern 9-0 R Hills 2
5 0 LAWFUL CONTRACT 26 R Hollinshead 9-0 F Lynch 10
6 MONTANO P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 8
7 50 RED MAPLE 17 P Cole 9-0 J Fortune 5
8 SMART BEAU R Charlton 9-0 J Reid 4
9 63 SWEET REWARD 34 J G Smyth-Osbourne 9-0 K Fallon 6
10 65 FACE-OFF 28 R Hannon 8-9 Dane O'Neill 3
11 REFINED L Cumani 8-9 L Dettori 1

2-1 Refined, 3-1 Face-Off, 4-1 Montano, 7-1 Blundell Lane, 8-1 Khattaff, 10-1 Sweet Reward, 12-1 Red Maple, Smart Beau, 16-1 others.

8.45 SPORTS MERCURY CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,727: 1m 3f 183yd) (7)

1 4-10 LETTYFAK 73 (D) I Williams 9-2 K Fallon 1
2 5-53 BLUE RIVER 32 (F,S) T Mills 9-0 L Dettori 5
3 01 DARCY 27 (S) M Stoute 9-0 K Darley 7
4 2-14 GHATAAS 39 (F) J Dunlop 9-0 R Hills 6
5 01 RIVER PILOT 26 (S) R Charlton 9-0 T Sprake 3
6 1- SHEER FOLLY 353 (F) P Cole 9-0 J Reid 4
7 1-02 YORKSHIRE 7 (S) P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 2

3-1 Ghataas, 7-2 Yorkshire, 9-2 Blue River, 5-1 Darcy, 7-1 River Pilot, 8-1 Sheer Folly, 25-1 Lettyfak

9.15 MERCURY RACE NIGHT FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,119: 5f 218yd) (14)

1 1042 PRIMA SILK 3 (D,F,G) M Ryan 6-10-0 G Carter 14
2 65-0 SENORITA MATILDA 24 R Hannon 3-9-6 Dane O'Neill 4
3 00-4 FAITH ALONE 19 (D,F,G) C Wall 4-9-5 G Duffield 11
4 0025 NEWLANDS CORNER 10 (B,D,F) J Akehurst 4-9-3 D Biggs 5
5 -003 MAKE READY 19 (G) J Neville 3-8-13 J Reid 7
6 0200 TYMEERA 12 (D,F,G) B Palling 4-8-9 T Sprake 8
7 -000 L A TOUCH 2 (CD,F) J J Quinn 4-8-7 J Fortune 9
8 3223 GOLD EDGE 8 (BF) M Channon 3-8-4 J F Egan 6
9 3545 PATINA 15 R Hollinshead 3-8-0 J Quinn 12
10 3556 AQUATIC QUEEN 10 R Weaver 3-8-0 R Winston (7) 3
11 0004 DONA FILIPA 7 Miss L Siddall 4-7-10 N Carlisle 1
12 5-00 SILVER JUBILEE 46 B Palling 3-7-10 M Henry (3) 2
13 0-00 MADAM ZANDO 8 J Balding 4-7-10 Dale Gibson 13
14 00-3 BRIN-LODGE 10 (B) K Bridgwater 4-7-10 J Bramhill (5) 10

4-1 Gold Edge, 5-1 Prima Silk, 6-1 Make Ready, 7-1 Patina, 8-1 Aquatic Queen, Senorita Matilda, 10-1 Newlands Corner, Tymeera, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: L Cumani, 11 winners from 42 runners, 26.2%; M Stoute, 16 from 62, 25.8%; H Cecil, 19 from 74, 25.7%; P Makin, 6 from 26, 23.1%; J Dunlop, 24 from 125, 19.2%; R Hannon, 30 from 168, 17.9%

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 33 winners from 161 rides, 20.5%; J Weaver, 17 from 83, 20.5%; Dane O'Neill, 7 from 44, 15.9%; J Reid, 16 from 102, 15.7%; F Lynch, 6 from 46, 13%; T Quinn, 17 from 150, 11.3%; G Carter, 12 from 109, 11.0%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

York

Going: good to soft

2.10 (6f) 1, SAPPHIRE RING (K Darley, 5-2), 2, Lady In Waiting (T Quinn, Evens fav), 3, Sea Magic (W Ryan, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Saffron Lane (4th), 14 Malozza (5th). 5 ran. ½l, 6l, 3½l, 18l. R Charlton at Beckhampton. Tote: £3.40, £1.60, £1.30. DF: £1.90 CSF: £5.36.

2.40 (5f) 1, SQUIRE CORRIE (P Fessey, 13-2); 2, Crofters Ceilidh (K Darley, 9-2), 3, Lady Sheriff (G Parkin, 7-2 fav) ALSO RAN: 9-2 Lago Di Varano, 9 Mallia, Pride Of Brixton, 10 Swynford Dream (6th), 12 Tuscan Dawn (5th), 14 Swan At Whalley (4th), 16 Osomental, 25 Rushcutter Bay. 11 ran ½l, 3l, ½l, 2l, 2l. D Chapman at York. Tote: £7.80; £2.50, £1.90, £1.50. DF: £20.80. Trio: £13.10 CSF £34.88 Tricast: £112.85

3.10 (1m 5f 194yd) 1, PURPLE SPLASH (R Havlin, 9-2), 2, Brandon Magic (K Darley, 5-1), 3, Thaljanah (J Fortune, 3-1) ALSO RAN 6-4 fav Benatom (4th), 9-2 Arctic Fancy (5th). 5 ran. 3½l, 4l, 2½l, nk. P Makin at Ogbourne Maisey. Tote. £6.80; £2.90, £2.00 DF: £16.30 CSF £24.83

3.40 (6f) 1, TEDBURROW (A Culhane, 9-2), 2, Sea-Deer (J Fortune, 100-30), 3, Daawe (M Deering, 12-1). ALSO RAN 3-1 fav Double Splendour (4th). 5 West Humble, 8 Madly Sharp, 12 Royal Mark (5th), 14 Golden Pound (6th), Hoh Returns, 25 Westcourt Magic. 10 ran. 2l, 3l, 1¾l, hd, nk. E Alston at Longton. Tote: £5.10, £1.90, £1.60, £2.80. DF: £8.00 Trio: £43.50 CSF: £19.89 Tricast. £165.33

4.10 (1m 3f 195yd) 1, MONTFORT (T Quinn, 5-6 fav); 2, Cybertechnology (W Ryan, 11-4); 3, Sun Alert (T G McLaughlin, 11-1). ALSO RAN 7-2 Iechyd-Da (4th). 4 ran. 5l, 10l, 20l. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote. £1.70. DF: £1.70 CSF. £3.27

4.45 (1m 3f 195yd) 1, SANDBAGGEDAGAIN (G Parkin, Evens fav); 2, Vicki Romara (J Fanning, 5-4); 3, Spick And Span (D McKeown, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 14 Northern Maestro (4th) 4 ran ½l, 15l, dist. M W Easterby at Sheriff Hutton. Tote: £2.10 DF: £1.20 CSF £2.32

Placepot: £84.70. Quadpot: £114.80.

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.15 (5f 6yd) 1, OVERTURE (Dane O'Neill, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Clef Of Silver (M Hills, 7-2), 3, Take A Turn (P P Murphy, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav Ellway Prince (4th), 4 Balenita (6th), 16 Vista Alegre, 20 Sky Mountain, Stone Of Destiny, Zeppo (5th) 9 ran. NR: Cheltain. Hd, 4l, 1¾l, 1¾l, hd. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £3.60; £1.50, £1.90, £2.20 DF: £9.20. Trio: £65.40. CSF £11.79

2.50 (7f 16yd) 1, MUHTATHIR (G Hind, 7-1), 2, Craigsteel (K Fallon, 11-4), 3, Mulahen (J Stack, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Monsajem (4th), 6 Lincolnshire (5th), 13-2 Eljjanah, 25 Master Mac, Night Vigil, Rodinia, 33 Iron Mountain, Royal Bounty (6th), Temper Lad, 50 Gay Abandon, Lady Yavanna, Meadgate's Dreamer 15 ran. ½l, 3l, 3l, ¾l, 2l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote £12.70, £3.40, £1.50, £9.50. DF: £15.70. Trio £63.20 CSF £22.64.

3.20 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, ORSAY (M Roberts, 3-1); 2, Game Ploy (Pat Eddery, 5-1); 3, General Haven (T Sprake, 25-1) ALSO RAN 9-4 fav Puce (5th), 7 Male-Ana-Mou, 8 Effectual (6th), 9 Bit On The Side (4th), Quiet Arch. 8 ran. Nk, 2½l, 1½l, nk, ¾l. W Muir at Lambourn. Tote: £3.80, £1.50, £1.60, £6.40 DF: £11.90. CSF £17.78. Tricast: £292.89

3.55 (7f 16yd) 1, MARA RIVER (M Hills, 5-1), 2, Rakis (Pat Eddery, 10-1); 3, Zelda Zonk (B Doyle, 14-1) ALSO RAN: 100-30 fav St Blaine (4th), 5 No Extras, 7 Kaiser Kache, 10 Mullitover, Zurs, 12 Intisab (6th), 16 Pengamon, 33 Xenophon Of Cunaxa (5th) 11 ran. Sh hd, ½l, nk, 1½l, hd. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £6.30; £2.00, £2.10, £2.80. DF: £28.60. Trio. £83.90. CSF: £50.27. Tricast £617.60.

4.30 (1m 2f 7yd) 1, HALTARRA (L Dettori, 1-5 fav), 2, Russian Ruler (S Drowne, 25-1); 3, *Rolling Stone* (R Cochrane, 33-1) ALSO RAN 12 Junction City, 33 Prime Minister (6th), 50 Salsee Lad (4th), 66 Jandal (5th), 100 Sylvan Jubilacion. 8 ran. NR: Bogan, Chandler's Hall. 3l, 6l, 3½l, 2l, 2½l. Saeed bin Suroor at Newmarket. Tote £1.20; £1.10, £1.60, £2.00 DF: £3.20. Trio £15.50 CSF: £7.16. Kristal Bridge (14-1) withdrawn, not under orders; rule 4 applies to all bets, deduct 5p in pound.

5.00 (5f 6yd) 1, WHITE EMIR (Pat Eddery, 4-1); 2, Montendre (L Dettori, 9-2), 3, Palacegate Touch (C Lowther, 7-2) ALSO RAN. 5-4 fav Gone Savage (4th), 14 Littlestone Rocket (5th), 66 Sacred Spirit (6th). 6 ran. NR: Palo Blanco. Nk, 1l, ½l, 4l, ½l. B Meehan at Lambourn. Tote. £4.70; £2.10, £2.70 DF: £9.50 CSF: £20.19

5.35 (1m 3f 91yd) 1, ARRIVING (K Fallon, 12-1); 2, Keepsake (R Street, 20-1); 3, Padauk (M Roberts, 16-1) ALSO RAN 11-4 jt-fav Dizzy Tilly (5th), Zorro (6th), 9 Herbshan Dancer, Inimitable, Persian Blue, 12 Golden Saddle, Soda Pop, 20 Laguna Bay (4th), Motcombs Club, 33 Running Free. 13 ran. 1½l, 3½l, sh hd, ½l, 1¾l. J Hills at Lambourn. Tote. £14.50; £4.20, £14.00, £5.90 DF. £647.30 Trio £1,036.40 (part won; pool of £1,328.39 carried forward to 3.40 at York today). CSF: £224.09 Tricast. £3,513.44.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.30 winning tickets; pool of £2,919.26 carried forward to York today).

Placepot: £131.40. Quadpot: £12.80.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.30 (1m) 1, Canadian Fantasy (J Weaver, 7-1), 2, Cartouche (5-4 fav), 3, Radar O'Reilly (9-1). 11 ran. Nk, 11l. M Johnston. Tote £7.60. £1.60, £1.10, £2.70. DF £3.70 Trio: £36.60. CSF. £15.56

3.00 (1m 6f) 1, Kalamata (N Day, 4-5 fav), 2, Sedbergh (7-2), 3, Mister Aspecto (13-2) 10 ran ½l, 2l. J Glover. Tote £1.80: £1.00, £2.00, £2.10 DF £2.10 Trio: £4.00. CSF £3.32 No bid

3.35 (5f) 1, *Pure Coincidence* (D Harrison, 9-2), 2, Legs Be Frendly (5-4 fav); 3, Bolero Kid (9-1) 14 ran. 3½l, ½l. G Lewis. Tote £6.40, £1.10, £1.20, £5.70 DF £9.60 Trio £74.50 CSF: £10.59

4.05 (5f) 1, Goretski (D Harrison, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Stolen Kiss (10-1), 3, Sea Ya Maite (8-1) Bee Health Boy 5-2 jt-fav 11 ran. Hd, nk. N Tinkler. Tote £2.40, £1.80, £2.10, £2.60 DF £16.30. Trio £49.70. CSF £31.67 Tricast £176.28.

4.40 (1m 3f) 1, Heighth Of Fame (G Duffield, 11-10 fav), 2, Champagne Warrior (5-2), 3, Royal Legend (11-2) 9 ran. 10l, 2½l. J Hetherton. Tote £1.90, £1.00, £2.20, £2.10 DF. £3.80. Trio £10.90 CSF: £3.70 Bought in 5,800gns

5.15 (7f) 1, Dream Carrier (Mrs C Peacock, 16-1), 2, Mustang (12-1), 3, Muara Bay (4-1 fav); 4, Awesome Venture (25-1) 16 ran. 7l, ¾l. R Peacock. Tote £28.00; £5.60, £2.60, £1.90, £3.50 DF: £153.40. Trio £227.90. CSF £208.14 Tricast £870.71.

Placepot: £8.30. Quadpot: £7.50.

Royal Ascot boost for Charlton

SAPPHIRE RING gave her trainer, Roger Charlton, a lift ahead of Royal Ascot with a narrow victory in the opening race at York yesterday. Charlton has high hopes for Wixim, King Alex and Cap Juluca at the showpiece meeting next week.

Meanwhile Sapphire Ring (5-2) *showed that the stable is* in good heart as she held the favourite, Lady In Waiting, by half a length in the University of York Novice Fillies' Stakes.

Charlton's representative, Martin Franklin, said: "She's only going to get better with racing. She hit the front but just stopped when she got there." Squire Corrie clinched a quick double — he won at Hamilton on Wednesday night — when overcoming a high draw to secure the Marketing Week Handicap.

FIXTURES

Today

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, first day of three
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Australians

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire
BASINGSTOKE: Hampshire v Somerset
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Kent
THE OVAL: Surrey v Yorkshire
HOVE: Sussex v Essex
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Derbyshire

University matches
11.30, first day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Durham
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Nottinghamshire

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
Natal v British Isles XV (at King's Park, Durban, 2.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League Visa world club championship
Pool A
Bradford v Auckland (6.0)
Pool B
North Queensland v Oldham (10.30am)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): Barcelona Dragons v Scottish Claymores (7.30)
EQUESTRIANISM: Bramham three-day event
GOLF: Scottish amateur strokeplay championship (at Monifieth). British women's amateur championship (at Cruden Bay)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Eastbourne v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League: Berwick v Sheffield (7.0), Stoke v Long Eaton (7.30). Amateur League: King's Lynn and Ipswich v Belle Vue (6.0), Swindon and Reading v Berwick (7.30)
SWIMMING: Scottish national championships (in Glasgow)
TENNIS: Stella Artois tournament (at Queen's Club, London). DFS Classic women's tournament (at Edgbaston)
WATER POLO: British championships Preliminary rounds (in Walsall)

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, second day of three
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Australians

Axa Life League
2.0, 40 overs
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Worcestershire
BASINGSTOKE: Hampshire v Somerset
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Kent
THE OVAL: Surrey v Yorkshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Derbyshire
2.10, 40 overs
HOVE: Sussex v Essex

University match
11.30, second day of three
FENNER'S: Cambridge University v Durham

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Bedford Town: Bedfordshire v Staffordshire. High Wycombe: Buckinghamshire v Northumberland. Swansea: Wales v Oxfordshire. Westbury: Wiltshire v Herefordshire

RUGBY UNION

International match
Western Samoa v Ireland Development XV (in Apia, 3.30am)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Super League Visa world club championship
Pool A
Canberra v London (5.30am)
Canterbury v Halifax (5.30am)
Warrington v Penrith (3.0)
Pool B
Sheffield v Perth (6.35)

First division
Huddersfield v Wakefield (3.30)
Keighley v Swinton (3.0)
Widnes v Whitehaven (3.0)
Workington v Hull KR (3.0)

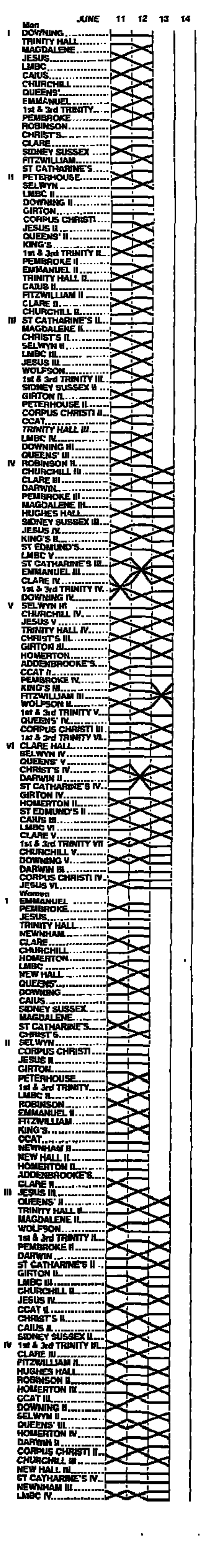
Second division
Batley v Lancashire Lynx (3.15)
Carlisle v Leigh (3.0)
Doncaster v York (3.0)
Prescot v Barrow (3.0)
Rochdale v Hunslet (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WLAF): London Monarchs v Rhein Fire (at Stamford Bridge, 3.0)
ATHLETICS: IAAF Grand Prix (in Gateshead)
EQUESTRIANISM: Bramham three-day event
GOLF: Scottish amateur strokeplay championship (at Monifieth)
MOTOR RACING: British touring car championship (at Donington Park)
SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Coventry v Poole (7.30). Elite League: Bradford v Wolverhampton (6.30). Swindon v King's Lynn (7.0)
TABLE TENNIS: National team finals (in Saltash)
TENNIS: Stella Artois tournament (at Queen's Club, London). DFS Classic women's tournament (at Edgbaston)
WATER POLO: British championships: Preliminary rounds (in Walsall).

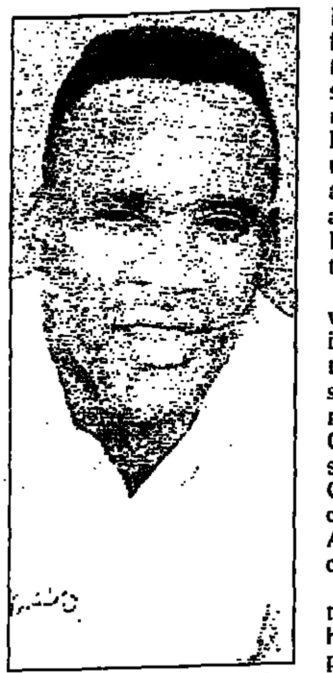
CAMBRIDGE MAYS

For the third day running, the *only 1st and 3rd Trinity crew* to concede any places was their second women's VIII. After seven divisions, all sandwich boats had moved.



England selectors sure to keep faith with Malcolm

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, sees no reason for changes in the side which performed with such *élan* at Edgbaston


Malcolm: unpredictable but worth the gamble

IF EVER there was a moment for the England cricket selectors to preach continuity, this surely is it. So far this summer, the psychological points have gone against Australia as regularly as the match results and the naming, tomorrow, of an unchanged England 13 for Lord's can only reinforce the trend.

This, almost certainly, is what will occur. The selectors, indeed, are not even planning to meet before the party for the second Cornhill Test is announced, although David Graveney, the chairman, has spoken at length to Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, his colleagues, and to Michael Atherton and David Lloyd, the captain and coach.

Graveney is not by nature a tub-thumping spokesman — he is happy to leave the passionate rhetoric to Lloyd — but the pride in his voice was plain as he reflected on a first Test in which, he feels, such contributory factors as an impeccable standard of umpiring and an unblemished atmosphere between the teams were largely overlooked in the euphoria of victory.

"It was a fantastic four days," Graveney said, "and the constant response I have been getting ever since, from talking to players, is that the English cricketer is proud of his profession right now. There were many things to admire about our performance, but the most pleasing was that everyone in the side played his part."

No stronger hint is needed that even minor surgery on the team structure would be thought counter-productive. This attitude will be a relief to Devon Malcolm, in particular, for the man chosen specifically for his speed and hostility summoned very little of either until bowling a significant spell immediately after tea on the final day.

Malcolm continues to be an enigma and, at 34, there is little point in expecting anything else. If he could be guaranteed to bowl, more often than not, as he did in that one spell, he would be an automatic choice in every England team. Instead, the bulk of his Test match bowling has been innocuous, his run-up either plodding or prancing unrhythmically and his action falling away decisively in the delivery stride.

Quite what motivates him to shift into his effective mode is a mystery to me and if any of his captains, down the years, has found the key to him they have been very frugal in its use. For now, though, the team management is inclined to blame nerves for his humble start to the match and, quite correctly, to assume that his later metamorphosis will have given Steve Waugh, especially, an uncomfortable reminder of what a proposition he can be.

Loyalty to the theory of Malcolm will mean further disappointment for the queue of competing seam bowlers. Mike Smith ought to lead the left-arm option, though some selectors still prefer the tried and so far disappointing Alan Mullally, while Dean Headley cannot expect promotion to the five-day side until he gets through a few more four-day games for Kent.

Before long, the young brigade may barge all such rivals aside and claim whatever vacancies may arise. Alex Tudor has already been given a taste of the England atmosphere by joining the squad before the first Test and Ashley Cowan, who is bowling so impressively for Essex, may now be granted a similar baptism.

The idea that two spin bowlers might be needed at Lord's, as has certainly been the case in the past, is unlikely to hold sway this year. The Test is to be played on a relaid pitch, last used for the 1996 Benson and Hedges Cup final, and the advice of Gatting, who is in the best position to know, is that the relaid parts of the square have been much less responsive to spin.

Philip Tufnell, however, is still bowling well for Middlesex, especially when he maintains an attacking line around the wicket, and England are sure to retain him in their party of 13 in case conditions are not quite what they expect.

The same is true of Adam Hollioake, though it is hard to see what can bring him his Test debut just yet barring an injury to one of the established middle-order batsmen. Mark Ealham was preferred only narrowly at Edgbaston, but finished the game with a half-century and three timely wickets. If his bowling, at the start of each spell, was riven with nerves, it is hardly surprising, but the more he plays, the more Ealham will overcome any self-doubts about his ability at this level.

Likely squad: Atherton, Butcher, Stewart, Hussain, Thorpe, Crawley, Ealham, A Hollioake, Croft, Gough, Caddick, Malcolm, Tufnell, Cowan.

Tufnell: unlikely to be suited by Lord's pitch

CRICKET

Improving Irani gives upper hand to Essex

By Michael Henderson

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with five second-innings in hand, are 24 runs behind Essex

STUNG by their feeble efforts on the first day, and possibly by the realisation that they may soon become a laughing-stock, Sussex batted with considerably more resolution yesterday until they were undone in the last hour.

Rajesh Rao, 22, who was once on the MCC groundstaff and is appearing in only his third championship match, was playing extremely well until, 11 runs short of his maiden hundred, he edged a catch to Graham Gooch at second slip. Next ball the nightwatchman, James Kirtley, was taken at third slip by Nasser Hussain after Gooch knocked the ball up. It meant that Kirtley, out first ball twice, suffered a king pair.

Sussex will lose some time today but they have regained pride, which must be the limit of their ambition until the tide turns, as tides do. They are not going to win many matches this year, that is for sure, but they can make a start by making opponents work hard for wins of their own.

Rao and Neil Lenham made the county's first century opening stand of the summer before the latter failed to beat Hussain's throw. They also lost Neil Taylor, caught on the pull, and Bill Athey, who was disappointed to be adjudged leg-before in the next over as he tried to sweep Paul Grayson's left-arm spin.

Picking up in the morning on 232 for five, Essex had pushed on to 384, and a lead of 244, by lunch. Ronnie Irani completed the seventh hundred of his first-class career and Robert Rollins, who was unforgiving on anything that caught his roving eye, made a very good 82. There were also four slip catches for Athey, who had dropped Grayson the previous evening, all taken with some assurance.

With the arrival of the brothers Hollioake, Irani has suddenly become the forgotten man of English cricket, which does him less justice than he deserves. As he showed later in the day, when he gave Lenham all sorts of trouble outside his off stump, his bowling has improved since the winter. His batting, forceful and uncomplicated, has always made him a player worth watching and he was close to his best here.

His hundred came from 131 balls, and included 18 boundaries, and he appeared set to pass his previous best score, 123 against Hampshire earlier this season, when he edged to Amer Khan at slip. His stand with Rollins realised 65 runs and the wicketkeeper maintained a healthy rate of scoring after Irani's departure.

Khan, the leg-spin bowler, saw his third ball cross the ropes at long-off, as Rollins decided that two balls was a sufficient sighter. Robinson, recalled to nip out the tail, was driven straight for six more and, two balls later, pulled through the windows of the committee-room, where members of the club's reconstituted body were assembling for drinks. Rollins made 82 from 104 balls before Khan, assisted by Athey, was avenged.

Rollins is a good enough batsman to have made a first-class hundred, is a handy wicketkeeper and, at 23, he has time on his side. He is a determined little chap as well and carries on playing despite fracturing his left index finger last month.

Rao and Lenham launched the Sussex second innings comfortably. Ashley Cowan, their destroyer on the first day, found the pitch less helpful and soon gave way to Irani, who regularly moved the ball away from the bat and, quite regularly to his enormous frustration, found the edge. Lenham, in particular, lived uneasily for a time. But Essex had their way later.

No deals done in tame draw

By Simon Wilde

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of three): Nottinghamshire drew with the Australians

THIS Tetley's Challenge Series match was never going anywhere once the first day had been lost to rain and, sure enough, it duly petered out into a tame draw yesterday, with the Australians devoting the day to batting practice. In response to Nottinghamshire's 239, they scored 398 for five on a pitch that had lost some of its earlier life.

Matthew Elliott scored 127, Steve Waugh 115 and Michael Bevan an unbeaten 75.

There was never any question of deals being done to make the game into a "contest". It is not the Australian way and, in any case, a run-chase was the last thing that the touring team needed; they have played enough one-day cricket in the past couple of months. In fact, a heavy shower at 5.10pm hastened the end.

The Australians moved on to Leicester last night for their final encounter before the second Test match at Lord's and the team that they plan to field there offers clues as to how they are thinking. Bevan, Slater and Ponting, who may be competing for the last batting place, all play, as do Reiffel and Julian, one of whom must act as third seamer in the Test. Blewett is again rested, giving his sore knee more chance to mend.

If Lord's offers anything to the spinners, Bevan, as Australia's second spinner, must surely play. The runs that he made here will have helped his cause, although they were made when the game had lost all meaning and Johnson, the Nottinghamshire captain, had placed the bowling mainly in the hands of Dowman, Astle and Afzaal.

Bevan faced 92 balls and struck five fours and one spectacular six, an on-drive against Afzaal that landed on the roof of the old press box. Perhaps more to the point, neither Slater nor Ponting made runs.

Ponting, playing his first innings for four weeks, was out in the first over of the day, much to his chagrin. He looked unhappy about umpire Meyer's leg-before verdict: presumably, he believed that he had hit the ball and, after one further ball, the players came off for rain.

Both Waughs needed runs. Mark, who faced the more demanding bowling, was subdued, taking 20 overs to score 29 before essaying a lavish drive at Dowman and edging into the hands of first slip. Steve made no such mistake, briskly working the ball around for his first century in ten tour innings from 121 balls. He shared stands of 117 with Elliott and 132 with Bevan.

Bevan came in after Elliott had more or less given his wicket away to Afzaal and played by far the most impressive innings of the day. His driving and hooking were safe and authoritative, and his defence sound. His second hundred of the tour was brought up with a glorious pulled six off Pick: there cannot be many better hookers in the game today.

Make hay though the Australians did yesterday, the unreal air surrounding their tour has not lifted. One reason is that they have not won since beating Northamptonshire a month ago: the other that they were again plagued by a small group of "patriots" determined to confirm that the dumbing-down of English cricket audiences continues apace.

CLIVE MASON / ALLSPORT

Elliott, of Australia, plays a pull shot on his way to a century yesterday

Stewart outdoes his father

By Ivo Tennant

THE OVAL (second day of four): Yorkshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 323 runs behind Surrey

TO AVOID being beaten by Surrey on a pitch taking a marked amount of turn, one or two Yorkshiremen will have to bat with much the same self-belief as Alec Stewart has shown. In the course of making an unbeaten 271, he not only batted quite beautifully and achieved the highest score of his career, but outshone his father.

Mickey Stewart reached the same plateau 33 years ago when he took 227 off Middlesex. For his son, it has not been quite the same as having to contend with a Hutton or a Cowdrey as the head of the family, but there would have been enough difficulties to surmount when Stewart Snr was the England manager.

Alec is a more stylish batsman — indeed a finer cricketer — and his innings was the 15th highest score in Surrey's history. That is more than May, Barrington or Edrich achieved, although they did not play four-day cricket.

Stewart faced 315 balls and hit 36 fours and three sixes, one of them majestically cut over point when White made little attempt to disguise a shorter, quicker ball. Benjamin helped him add 54 for the last wicket, a stand that was as diverting as it was productive. Yorkshire were left to make 400 to avoid following on, a target they looked to reach without embellishing their batting.

In his first championship match, Saqlain Mushtaq had a lengthy bowl from both ends, occasionally interspersing his off-breaks with a quicker ball akin to a leg cutter that is delivered without any perceptible change of action. He eventually had Moxon taken at slip, but given the amount of turn he and Salisbury were able to obtain, they would not have been over pleased with their return. Byas used his considerable reach to good effect.

The captains past and present added 69 after Kettleborough was bowled by Bicknell shouldering arms. Moxon was dropped by Saqlain off his own bowling, a fairly straightforward chance when on 53 that proved not to be costly.

Lehmann, who became the third Yorkshire batsman to score a half-century, made greater attempts to attack the bowling. He will do well to make as many runs as Beavan, his fellow Australian, achieved last year, but he has settled in well, looks to enjoy himself on and off the pitch, and has quite a few fellow countrymen to impress in England this summer. He was still there at the close, having scored 61.

More attritional batting will be required today, for Byas, who stayed in for three hours, and Parker went in successive balls to Saqlain, one caught at slip, the other at silly point.

Dave Gilbert, the Surrey coach, came up with some ominous noises after their defeat by Essex: they will be concerned if they do not win now.

Moles defies Derbyshire

By Pat Gibson

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are nine runs ahead of Derbyshire

THERE are only two English-born batsmen with a career average of more than 40 who have never gained international recognition. One is Peter Bowler, the Somerset captain, and he was raised in Australia. The other is Andy Moles, a Brummie through and through, and yesterday he showed once more how unlucky he had been never to get the selectorial nod.

Moles is 36 and in his benefit season, so time has passed him by. There are, however, few players around who could have batted as well as he did to put Warwickshire in a position of strength on a pitch that is expected to give increasing help to seam, with the ball keeping low, and spin.

Nick Knight is not one of them at the moment. He has just lost his England place and he is not going to get it back in a hurry if he keeps playing the kind of shot he aimed at a wide, short ball from Devon Malcolm to be caught behind in the fifth over of the day.

Such early success prompted Phillip de Freitas, Derbyshire's new captain, to call his players around him for a finger-wagging pep talk, obviously designed to tell them exactly what was required in the conditions. Malcolm responded immediately with a couple of searing deliveries that David Hemp did well to survive, but it all began to go downhill after that. Moles was the main reason. He could not have been more watchful in defence or positive in attack, cutting and square driving Harris, pulling Malcolm, and driving de Freitas through mid-on and extra cover on his way to 50 out of 92 off only 93 balls.

Hemp was the ideal foil. An England A batsman two winters ago, he lost his way with Glamorgan after a sickening collision in the outfield left him with four broken ribs and a punctured lung. Now fully recovered, and with his confidence restored by three centuries for his new county, he was back to his elegant best as he swept Clarke for six and dispatched Malcolm emphatically to the cover boundary.

With his seamers and spinners unable to make an impression, de Freitas was left to do the job himself. He broke the second-wicket stand of 124 when he had Hemp caught behind, cutting, for 60 and then got Moles the same way, for 83, when he nibbled outside the off-stump.

On each occasion Krikken did his work well standing up to the seaming, swinging ball but although de Freitas continued to keep him on his toes in an unbroken 14-over spell that brought him two for 35, Ostler and Penney had seen Warwickshire into the lead by the time the third stoppage for rain and bad light brought an early close.

☐ England's triumph in the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston has helped Nottinghamshire to sell their remaining tickets for the fifth Test.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tetley's Challenge Series

Nottinghamshire v Australians

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of three): Nottinghamshire drew with the Australians

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 239 (N J Astle 99; G D McGrath 4 for 63)

AUSTRALIANS: First Innings

M T G Elliott b Afzaal	127
M J Slater lbw b Evans	14
R T Ponting lbw b Pick	19
M E Waugh c Astle b Dowman	29
*S R Waugh c Afzaal b Dowman	115
M G Bevan not out	75
†A C Gilchrist not out	9
Extras (b 3, lb 3, w 4)	10
Total (5 wkts)	398

B P Julian, P R Reiffel, M S Kasprowicz and G D McGrath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-55, 3-133, 4-250, 5-382.

BOWLING: Franks 18-3-54-0; Pick 13-0-62-1; Evans 15-1-51-1; Oram 5-1-14-0; Astle 13-1-37-0; Dowman 16-0-78-2; Afzaal 15.2-1-96-1

Umpires: J D Bond and B J Meyer

Britannic Assurance county championship

Glamorgan v Middlesex

CARDIFF (second day of four): Middlesex, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 34 runs behind Glamorgan

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

P N Weekes c Thomas b Watkin	3
J H Kallis c Maynard b Watkin	96
*M R Ramprakash c Shaw b Watkin	63
M W Gatting c Shaw b Thomas	28
J C Pooley lbw b Croft	40
A R C Fraser not out	3
†K R Brown not out	4
Extras (lb 6, w 2, nb 2)	10
Total (5 wkts, 70.1 overs)	247

K P Dutch, R L Johnson, J P Hewitt and P C R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-166, 3-172, 4-237, 5-243

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 13-0-72-0; Watkin 16-5-29-3; Thomas 9.1-2-27-1; Croft 24-3-83-1; Butcher 5-1-21-0; Dale 3-1-9-0

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c Brown b Fraser	3
H Morris c Kallis b Hewitt	16
A Dale c Kallis b Fraser	0
*M P Maynard c Brown b Hewitt	59
P A Cottey c Weekes b Johnson	19
R D B Croft c Brown b Fraser	82
G P Butcher c Weekes b Hewitt	21
†A D Shaw b Fraser	0
Waqar Younis c Fraser b Tufnell	26
S D Thomas not out	11
S L Watkin c Brown b Johnson	4
Extras (b 19, lb 7, w 8, nb 6)	40
Total (92 overs)	281

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-26, 3-26, 4-64, 5-148, 6-216, 7-217, 8-240, 9-269.

BOWLING: Fraser 24-4-68-4; Hewitt 23-3-88-3; Kallis 2-2-0-0; Johnson 20-6-55-2; Tufnell 14-4-31-1; Dutch 9-2-13-0

Bonus points: Glamorgan 4 Middlesex 5

Umpires: T E Jesty and R A White.

Gloucestershire v Worcestershire

BRISTOL (second day of four): Worcestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 57 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T S Curtis c Wright b Lewis	1
W P C Weston c Lynch b Smith	0
G A Hick lbw b Lewis	12
K R Spiring b Smith	52
G R Haynes b Young	24
D A Leatherdale c Lynch b Alleyne	5
V S Solanki c Smith b Alleyne	0
*†S J Rhodes b Alleyne	78
S R Lampitt c Russell b Alleyne	52
A Sheriyar not out	6
R J Chapman c Russell b Alleyne	0
Extras (b 4, lb 4, w 6, nb 6)	20
Total (95.5 overs)	250

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-5, 3-19, 4-60, 5-65, 6-65, 7-119, 8-243, 9-244

BOWLING: Smith 20-1-46-2; Lewis 22.5-68-2; Young 18-4-55-1; Alleyne 20.5-7-41-5; Ball 15-5-32-0

Second Innings

T S Curtis not out	22
W P C Weston not out	12
Total (no wkt)	36

BOWLING: Smith 5-1-15-0; Lewis 6-4-3-0; Young 5-1-18-0; Alleyne 4-4-0-0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

A J Wright c and b Haynes	15
N J Trainor c Rhodes b Lampitt	20
R J Cunliffe c Rhodes b Sheriyar	48
M A Lynch b Chapman	31
S Young b Leatherdale	0
*M W Alleyne c Rhodes b Chapman	6
†R C Russell c Rhodes b Lampitt	6
T H C Hancock lbw b Haynes	13
M C J Ball not out	40
A M Smith b Lampitt	1
J Lewis c Rhodes b Leatherdale	30
Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 16)	19
Total (76 overs)	229

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-49, 3-94, 4-99, 5-124, 6-137, 7-137, 8-161, 9-162

BOWLING: Chapman 16-2-69-2; Sheriyar 15-5-28-1; Solanki 1-0-7-0; Lampitt 18-6-53-3; Haynes 12-4-19-2; Leatherdale 14-3-50-2

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 5 Worcestershire 6

Umpires: B Dudleston and J F Steele

Hampshire v Somerset

BASINGSTOKE (second day of four): Hampshire are 234 runs ahead of Somerset

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 204

Second Innings

J S Laney lbw b Rose	28
M L Hayden c Bowler b Parsons	63
K D James c Turner b Rose	2
R A Smith lbw b Mushtaq	29
W S Kendall c Bowler b Shine	21
*J P Stephenson c Turner b Shine	16
†A N Aymes not out	12
S D Udal c Bowler b Shine	0
A D Mascarenhas lbw b Rose	2
S J Renshaw lbw b Rose	0
J N B Bovill b Rose	5
Extras (lb 7, nb 2)	9
Total	189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-73, 2-85, 3-102, 4-131, 5-157, 6-172, 7-172, 8-177, 9-183

BOWLING: Caddick 13-3-36-0; Shine 19.8-37-3; Rose 21.1-8-53-5; Mushtaq Ahmed 17-5-40-1; Parsons 3-0-10-1

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Lathwell c Udal b James	19
*P D Bowler lbw b Renshaw	1
P C L Holloway not out	73
R J Harden lbw b Renshaw	1
K A Parsons lbw b James	1
†R J Turner st Aymes b James	0
G D Rose b Stephenson	1
Mushtaq Ahmed b James	17
A P van Troost b James	5
A R Caddick lbw b Stephenson	39
K J Shine lbw b Stephenson	0
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (53.4 overs)	159

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-34, 3-37, 4-48, 5-48, 6-59, 7-88, 8-102, 9-159

BOWLING: Bovill 5-2-23-0; Renshaw 12-5-36-2; James 18-5-44-5; Stephenson 7.4-1-27-3; Udal 2-0-15-0; Mascarenhas 4-2-12-0.

Bonus points: Hampshire 5 Somerset 4.

Umpires: A A Jones and A Clarkson

Lancashire v Kent

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 260 runs behind Kent

KENT: First Innings

D P Fulton c Fairbrother b Chapple	19
M J Walker c Lloyd b Shadford	45
T R Ward c Haynes b Shadford	16
A P Wells c Fairbrother b Shadford	65
M V Fleming c Haynes b Austin	0
M A Ealham c Lloyd b Chapple	15
B J Phillips not out	100
P A Strang lbw b Austin	43
*†S A Marsh c Haynes b Chapple	24
J B D Thompson c Atherton b Titchard	3
M J McCague b Austin	5
Extras (b 8, lb 6, w 12, nb 12)	38
Total (99.3 overs)	373

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-76, 3-87, 4-92, 5-135, 6-198, 7-283, 8-328, 9-356

BOWLING: Chapple 28-7-86-3; Shadford 20-1-110-3; Austin 24.3-7-58-3; Ridgway 19-4-73-0; Watkinson 4-1-21-0; Titchard 4-0-11-1

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

S P Titchard st Marsh b Strang	18
M A Atherton c Marsh b McCague	5
J P Crawley c Marsh b Strang	44
N H Fairbrother c Walker b Phillips	20
G D Lloyd not out	13
*M Watkinson b Strang	3
†J J Haynes not out	1
Extras (lb 1, nb 8)	9
Total (5 wkts, 41 overs)	113

I D Austin, G Chapple, D J Shadford and P M Ridgway to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-53, 3-86, 4-90, 5-104.

BOWLING: McCague 13-3-41-1; Thompson 4-0-14-0; Ealham 3-0-16-0; Strang 13-7-20-3; Phillips 8-4-21-1

Bonus points: Lancashire 4 Kent 6.

Umpires: J W Holder and G Sharp

Surrey v Yorkshire

THE OVAL (second day of four): Yorkshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 323 runs behind Surrey

SURREY: First Innings

J D Ratcliffe c Byas b Stemp	43
M A Butcher c Byas b Morris	45
†A J Stewart not out	271
B C Hollioake c Byas b Stemp	53
A D Brown lbw b White	0
*A J Hollioake lbw b Morris	69
C C Lewis c Moxon b Stemp	6
I D K Salisbury c Lehmann b Silverwood	2
M P Bicknell c Blakey b Hartley	15
Saqlain Mushtaq c and b Hartley	4
J E Benjamin b White	21
Extras (b 8, lb 8, w 4)	20
Total	549

Score at 120 overs: 482-7.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-92, 3-233, 4-234, 5-366, 6-404, 7-429, 8-483, 9-495

BOWLING: Hartley 27-4-103-2; Silverwood 23-7-83-1; White 27.5-2-137-2; Stemp 46-8-148-3; Morris 12-3-62-2

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

M D Moxon c Lewis b Saqlain	57
R A Kettleborough b Bicknell	10
*D Byas c Lewis b Saqlain	59
D S Lehmann not out	61
B Parker c Butcher b Saqlain	0
C White not out	13
Extras (lb 6, nb 20)	26
Total (4 wkts, 72 overs)	226

†R J Blakey, A C Morris, P J Hartley, C E W Silverwood and R D Stemp to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-107, 3-195, 4-195

BOWLING: Bicknell 15-5-45-1; Lewis 8-2-23-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 26-8-53-3; Benjamin 5-0-29-0; Salisbury 15-2-52-0; B C Hollioake 3-0-19-0

Bonus points: Surrey 5 Yorkshire 4

Umpires: R Julian and A G T Whitehead

Sussex v Essex

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 24 runs behind Essex

SUSSEX: First Innings 140 (A P Cowan 5 for 45; N F Williams 4 for 29)

Second Innings

N J Lenham run out	60
R K Rao c Gooch b Cowan	89
N R Taylor c Cowan b Such	37
C W J Athey lbw b Grayson	1
K Newell not out	16
R J Kirtley c Gooch b Cowan	0
M Newell not out	0
Extras (lb 5, w 4, nb 8)	17
Total (5 wkts)	220

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-116, 2-181, 3-182, 4-218, 5-218

BOWLING: Cowan 17-5-48-2; Williams 10-1-25-0; Irani 11-3-41-0; Such 16-4-33-1; S G Law 12-1-42-0; Grayson 11-4-26-1

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch c Moores b Robinson	13
*P J Prichard b Kirtley	13
N Hussain lbw b Drakes	21
S G Law b Kirtley	31
R C Irani c Athey b Khan	110
A P Grayson run out	41
D R Law c Athey b Robinson	17
†R J Rollins c Athey b Khan	82
A P Cowan c Kirtley b Drakes	9
N F Williams c Athey b Robinson	17
P M Such not out	6
Extras (b 3, nb 21)	24
Total (93 overs)	384

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-38, 3-58, 4-96, 5-192, 6-238, 7-303, 8-332, 9-370

BOWLING: Drakes 22-6-86-2; Kirtley 20-2-112-2; Robinson 25-2-101-3; Khan 21-5-70-2; K Newell 5-3-12-0.

Bonus points: Sussex 4 Essex 8.

Umpires: H D Bird and G I Burgess.

Warwickshire v Derbyshire

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are nine runs ahead of Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 200 (V P Clarke 55; N M K Smith 4 for 37; D R Brown 4 for 33)

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

*N V Knight c Krikken b Malcolm	13
A J Moles c Krikken b DeFreitas	83
D L Hemp c Krikken b DeFreitas	60
D P Ostler not out	30
T L Penney not out	10
Extras (b 5, lb 8)	13
Total (3 wkts, 75 overs)	209

D R Brown, †K J Piper, G Welch, N M K Smith, A F Giles and M D Edmond to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-150, 3-177

BOWLING: Malcolm 15-5-44-1; Harris 25-8-73-0; DeFreitas 22-6-52-2; Clarke 7-2-17-0; Blackwell 6-2-13-0

Bonus points: Warwickshire 5 Derbyshire 2.

Umpires: N T Plews and R Palmer.

HYDERABAD: One-day international (50 overs): India 296-4 (S R Tendulkar 115, S C Ganguly 102); New Zealand 261 (M J Horne [illegible]). India won by 35 runs. **One-day international** (50 overs): Pakistan 306-7 (Moin Khan 103, Inzamam-ul-Haq 79); New Zealand 290 (M J Greatbatch 102). Pakistan won by 16 runs.

CRICKET

Resilience of Phillips puts Kent in control

By Richard Hobson

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 260 runs behind Kent

AS GLOUCESTERSHIRE, the leaders, began to encounter difficulties against Worcestershire, the likelihood grew yesterday that Kent will emerge from the present round of matches at the head of the county championship table. On the evidence of this game, they might take some catching.

Much has been written over the past three weeks of the spirit within the England squad. Kent, too, appear a purposeful outfit and are brimming with confidence after a successful start to the season that has seen them lose only twice in all competitions.

How easy it was to compare and contrast them with Lancashire even before the start of play yesterday. In one quarter of the ground, the home side went through the regular fielding drill — catch and throw, catch and throw. Another day at the office. Meanwhile, Kent embarked on a game evolved from handball with stacks of tracksuit tops to represent the goalposts. It was mildly competitive, enjoyable, loosened limbs and stimulated minds.

In such a harmonious atmosphere it becomes easier for younger players to prosper, as Ben Phillips will testify. On Thursday evening, in treacherous conditions for batting, he survived as nightwatchman and yesterday, the pitch a little friendlier, he completed a maiden century, having spent 256 minutes at the crease and hit nine fours.

Earlier in the season Phillips, batting at No 11, put on 183 for the tenth wicket with Steve Marsh against Sussex. In the next game, against Nottinghamshire, Mark Ealham and Paul Strang added 171 for the ninth. Here, Kent recovered from 135 for five to 373 and Lancashire still require 111 to avoid the follow-on today.

Phillips almost fell twice before lunch. When 14, he was grateful to Watkinson's shoulder problem as he narrowly beat the pained throw from the Lancashire captain after being sent back by Wells. Ten runs later, the umpires conferred before deciding that a drive against Chapple had not carried to Shadford at mid-on.

Wells was superbly caught by Fairbrother at slip and Strang appeared in little trouble, taking four fours from a single over from Ridgway before he was leg-before to the second ball after lunch. Marsh stayed 11 overs and then slashed at a wide delivery from Chapple and when Thompson drove to gully, where Atherton accepted a low chance, Phillips was down to his last partner.

McCague managed to keep him company for long enough. Phillips raised his bat a proud man after tucking Austin to square leg for a single. Next ball, McCague was bowled.

Lancashire needed Atherton to show the stubborn determination that has characterised his England career and, today, saw him appointed OBE. Instead, his innings had yielded just five runs when he nibbled at McCague, bowling especially briskly, and was caught behind.

Thereafter, much of the damage was done by Paul Strang, the Zimbabwe leg-spin bowler. He beat Titchard in the flight, tempted John Crawley to edge an attempted cut to Marsh and beat Watkinson with a googly. Phillips induced an awful stroke from Fairbrother to compound the Lancashire worries.

Phillips turns a shot to leg on the way to his maiden century and a position of command for Kent yesterday

Last-wicket pair pull leaders round

By Derek Hodgson

BRISTOL (second day of four): Worcestershire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 57 runs ahead of Gloucestershire

WHEN Gloucestershire, the championship leaders, found themselves in deepening mire yesterday, Martyn Ball and Jon Lewis, the last pair, put on their gumboots and jumped in to drag them out. From 162 for nine, still 88 behind, they prodded, poked, pulled and pounded their team back into contention.

They added 67 runs in 15 overs, invaluable in what looks likely to be a match of mediocre scores. Steven Rhodes, Worcestershire's acting captain, took five catches in the innings but proved fallible when he dropped Ball, who went on to make an unbeaten 40, off Stuart Lampitt when he had made 21.

Had the catch stuck, Worcestershire's advantage would have been 57, instead of 21, which they increased in the 20 overs before the close, Tim Curtis striking the ball confidently and briskly for three boundaries in four overs.

The reluctance of either captain to post a third man has meant that any ball pitched up and a little wide has been happily deflected in that direction. By tea, Ball and Lewis had gained so much in confidence that they were all but disdaining such gifts, Ball pulling with great verve and Lewis employing a scooping lofted shot that infuriated Worcestershire by continually dropping into space.

Worcestershire, 243 for eight overnight, added only another seven runs for their last two wickets, Mark Alleyene finishing with the flattering figures of five for 41.

Gloucestershire then had to face 27 overs before lunch and there were early indications that the pitch, though drier and a little quicker than the first day, was showing a few signs of wear. Almagir Sheriyar, the left-arm bowler who arrived at New Road from Leicester, has had the benefit of winter coaching from Phil Newport. He has retained his pace, has added a few variations and, if he improves his control, could develop into an impressive strike bowler.

Yet it was Worcestershire's second-line attack that broke through. Nick Trainor waving outside his off stump at Lampitt's second ball and Tony Wright misreading the length to give Gavin Haynes a return catch. What should have been an afternoon saunter turned into a broken trail.

Monte Lynch drove and pulled four fours in two overs before, six overs into the afternoon, he tried another pull and played on. Shaun Young was surprised by a ball of full length that scurried, at which point Rhodes twisted and dived to take three more catches.

With the score at 137, Rob Cunliffe departed the ball after Jack Russell. Tim Hancock and Mike Smith had only peripheral parts, which brought Lewis, fresh from a career-best 25 against Yorkshire, and Ball on to centre stage.

Ambrose strikes early

CURTLY AMBROSE captured all three Sri Lanka wickets that fell before lunch on the opening day of the first Test at St John's, Antigua, yesterday. The West Indies fast bowler, who needs only five more wickets to reach 300 in Tests, did the damage in a burst of eight balls.

He sent back Mahanama and Arnold with successive deliveries before having Aravinda de Silva caught by Courtney Walsh. Sanath Jayasuriya stood firm, however, and completed his half-century, which included two sixes, just before the interval when Sri Lanka had recovered to 72 for three.

Jayasuriya's partnership with his captain, Arjuna Rantunga, was then worth 49. Both batsmen showed great courage in the face of some aggressive bowling and took several blows to the body.

Hayden's patience shows the way for Somerset

By Jack Bailey

BASINGSTOKE (second day of four): Hampshire are 234 runs ahead of Somerset

FOR the batsman, it was a get-on-the-front-foot-and-keep-the-bat-vertical sort of day. The pitch had lost pace, the ball was inclined to keep low and these factors were ignored at a batsman's peril. Matthew Hayden and, eventually, Jason Laney worked this out during a stand of 73 which gave Hampshire's second innings a handsome start and so, it appeared, had Robin Smith until Mushtaq, bowling on a pitch which did him no favours, had Smith leg-before, playing no stroke. So the saga of Smith's susceptibility to leg spin continues.

Meanwhile, thanks to some fine bowling by Rose, this match remains in the balance although the odds are now tilted towards Somerset. They will have to get the highest score of the match to win, but that may not be beyond them. Hayden's patient 63, which nevertheless included a six and eleven fours has shown the way.

A Somerset win would be despite the 45-run lead garnered by Hampshire when they took the last four Somerset wickets for 80 yesterday morning. Somerset could live to regret not opening with Caddick and Rose on Thursday morning when conditions were ripe for them and before Hampshire had made 53 from the first nine overs. They may also rue giving away 47 extras during Hampshire's first innings.

If they do get away with it, however, Somerset will owe much to the persistence of Piran Holloway and the under-rated batting talents of Caddick. Holloway had stood firm with his well-organised left hander's technique while Somerset were tumbling to their overnight 79 for six, of which he had made 43. Yesterday he remained undefeated after nearly 3½ hours of stubborn defence interspersed with 12 fours.

Conditions suited Caddick's emphasis on forward play and the clean, straight follow through.

Atherton caught off guard by award

By John Goodbody

MICHAEL Atherton, who captained England to their triumph in the first Test against Australia, joined his distinguished forerunner, Sir Colin Cowdrey, in the list of sportsmen and women recognised in the Birthday Honours List.

Atherton, who next Thursday will break Peter May's record by captaining England for the 42nd time in a Test match, was mystified yesterday as to why he was appointed OBE.

He said: "I suppose it is for efforts put forward over a period of time with England, but there are plenty of others putting in the same effort, who are other deserving cricketers."

Speaking during the lunch interval of Lancashire's match against Kent at Old Trafford, he said: "I had a letter shortly before the Texaco Trophy series, but I had forgotten about it until I saw photographers gathering round the pavilion. Then the significance of the date clicked."

David Shepherd, a first-class umpire since 1981, who will be standing in the second Test at Lord's, has been appointed MBE. No present footballers have been honoured, although Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, is appointed OBE.

Among those from other sports to figure in the list are Chay Blyth, the yachtsman, and Peter O'Sullevan, the horse racing commentator, both of whom were knighted.

Eileen Gray, a leading figure in cycling administration, is appointed CBE, while Dr Sarah Springman, the former European triathlon champion, Cambridge academic and Sports Council member, is appointed OBE.

John Reid, the flat jockey, who rode a century of winners in 1993, 1995 and 1996, is appointed MBE, as is Wilf O'Reilly, the short-track skating champion.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

BARCELONA: Invitation meeting (selected results) **Men: 100m:** 1, J Livingston (GB) 10.30sec. **4 x 100m relay:** 1, Great Britain (Livingston, M Devonish, K Walker, D Turner) 39.51sec. **Women: 100m:** 1, S Jacobs (GB) 11.18sec; 2, B Kinch (GB) 11.29; 3, M Richardson (GB) 11.43. **4 x 100m relay:** 1, Great Britain (Kinch, Richardson, A McGillivary, Jacobs) 45.66sec.

TURKU, Finland: International meeting: Winners: **Men: 100m:** F Fredericks (Nam) 10.11sec. **1,500m:** P Birok (Ken) 3min 36.87sec. **110m hurdles:** I Kovacs (Slovakia) 13.38sec. **Pole vault:** Y Smiryagin (Russ) 5.85m. **Shot:** A Bagalch (Ukr) 20.61m. **Javelin:** J Zelezny (Cz) 87.46m. **Women: 100m:** S Hernesniemi (Fin) 11.47sec. **3,000m:** K Anderson (Aus) 8min 55.92sec. **Long jump:** T Vaszi (Hun) 6.54m. **Javelin:** T Hattestad (Nor) 68.34m.

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Sydney Swans 26.8 (164) bt Richmond 16.14 (110)

BASEBALL

INTER-LEAGUE GAMES: Texas 3 San Francisco 4; Oakland 5 Los Angeles 4; Anaheim 8 San Diego 4; Seattle 12 Colorado 11

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 9 Baltimore 5; Cleveland 2 Milwaukee 6

BOWLS

WALES MEN'S TEAM (for home internationals at Worthing, June 30 to July 4): **Rink one:** G Williams (Pembroke Dock), * N Collett (Penlyan), † S Rees (Old Landonians), † J Price (Aberavon). **Rink two:** * A Bushell (Crosskeys), † R Jones (Builth Wells), † J Greenslade (Cardiff), M Anstey (Beaufort). **Rink three:** * N Rees (Parc-y-Dref), I Terry (Tick Tock), R Price (RTB Ebbw Vale), D Wilkins (Pontrhydyfen). **Rink four:** W Matthews (Graig Merthyr), K Peregrin (Ammanford Park), P Rowlands (Penhill), R Weale (Presteigne). **Rink five:** * D Harding (Cardiff), † A Atwood (Caerphilly), † M Bishop (Brynhyfryd), W Thomas (Pontrhydyfen). **Rink six:** I Slade (Pontymister Athletic), * J Webley (Dinas Powis), G Jones (Haverfordwest), S Wilshire (Gelli Park). **Reserves:** A Fleming (Machynlleth), C Blake (Penhill)

* denotes newcomer, † denotes recall

EBA RANKINGS: 1, A Thomson 216pts; 2, A Allcock 213; 3, M King 182; 4, G Harlow 139; 5, W Richards 119; 6, G A Smith 114; 7, J Ottaway 109; 8, B Morley 105; 9, P Butcher 84; 10, D Holt 80; 11, J Leeman 77; 12, D Ward 73; 13, J Bell 67; 14, J Rednall 66; 15, M Biggs 62; 16, R Newman 59; 17 equal, R Cutts and J Wickham 58; 19, S Airey 56; 20, R Morgan 55.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three). **Ammanford:** Glamorgan 183 and 15-1, Nottinghamshire 213. Match drawn. **Abbotsholme School, Rocester:** Derbyshire 70-3 dec and 82-0, Middlesex 197-3 dec (D J Goodchild 98, J C Harrison 59). Match drawn. **Wickford:** Leicester 267 and 152-6 dec (C Crow 57 not out), Essex 133 and 167-4 (J C Powell 56 not out). Match drawn. **York:** Yorkshire 168-6 dec (M J Wood 56, A McGrath 50) and forfeit. Sussex forfeit and 169-7 (I D Fisher 4-63). Sussex win by three wickets. **Gnfl and Colton CC:** Warwickshire 371-4 dec (M J Powell 155, A Frost 84, A Hafeez 53 not out) and forfeit. Durham forfeit and 271-7 (D G C Ligertwood 88 not out, M A V Bell 4-73). Match drawn. **Southport:** Lancashire 45 and 184 (L J Ratcliffe 4-25); Gloucestershire 146 and 84-9 (G Yates 6-31). Gloucestershire win by one wicket. **Finchampstead:** Hampshire 314 and 247-5 dec (G W White 99 not out, M Garaway 86). Northamptonshire 251 and 238-8 (R J Warren 113). Match drawn. **Cheam:** Worcestershire 382-9 dec and 240-6 (I Dawood 69), Surrey 303-4 dec and 322-5 (D J Bicknell 113, G J Kennis 82). Surrey win by five wickets.

CYCLING

DAUPHINE LIBÉRÉ: Fourth stage (45km time-trial): 1, V Yekimov (Russ, US Postal) 53min 2.57sec; 2, A Olano (Sp, Banesto) 53.36.43; 3, R Meier (Switz, Post Suisse) 54.29.46; 4, U Bolts (Ger, Telekom) 54.30.50; 5, C Boardman (GB, GAN) 55.02.69; 6, P Lance (Fr, Big Mat) 55.03.49; 7, G Magnan (Fr, Mutuelle Seine-et-Marne) 55.13.47; 8, A Kasputis (Lith, Casino) 55.13.48; 9, J Vicente Garcia (Sp, Banesto) 55.21.59; 10, C Moreau (Fr, Festina) 55.33.91. **Leading overall positions:** 1, Yekimov 16hr 56min 10sec; 2, Olano at 49sec; 3, Meier 1min 49sec; 4, Bolts 1.57; 5, Boardman 2.49; 6, Moreau 2.51; 7, M Boogerd (Holl, Rabobank) 2.57; 8, A Zülle (Switz, ONCE) 2.59; 9, D Baranowski (Pol, US Postal) 3.07; 10, Kasputis 3.10.

TOUR OF LUXEMBOURG: First stage (Luxembourg to Dippach, 179km): 1, E Zabel (Ger) 4hr 43min 39sec; 2, M Wust (Ger); 3, H Vogels (Austria); 4, J Kirsipuu (Est); 5, T Hoffman (Holl); 6, L Michaelsen (Den); 7, M Fondriest (It); 8, M van Heesswijk (Holl); 9, D Signeolin (It); 10, B Ris (Den) all same time

FOOTBALL

WORLD CUP: Oceania qualifying zone: Second round: Group one: Australia 5 Tahiti 0 (in Sydney). Asia zone: Group two: Iran 2 Syria 2, Kyrgyzstan 6 Maldives 0 (both in Tehran). Group five: Yemen 1 Indonesia 1 (in Sanaa)

COPA AMERICA: Group B: Bolivia 1 Venezuela 0 (in La Paz); Peru 1 Uruguay 0 (in Sucre, Bolivia)

GOLF

LAUSANNE: American Express Tour Deesse Swiss Open: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 137: K Lunn (Aus) 66, 71. 138: A Barg (Swe) 70, 68. 140: M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 72, 68. 141: J Morley 67, 74, K Orum (Den) 72, 69; P Johnson 68, 73. 142: J Cartanier (Fr) 75, 67; A-C Jonesson (Swe) 72, 70. 143: A Nicholas 73, 70; F Dassu (It) 69, 74, L Jensen (US) 72, 71, J Leary (Aus) 69, 74; J Mills (Aus) 68, 75. 144: A Gottmo (Swe) 71, 73; S Farron (NZ) 74, 70, A Arruti (Sp) 72, 72; M Hageman (Holl) 73, 71; S Melin (Swe) 71, 73. 145: A Radford 68, 77; M de Boer (Holl) 69, 76; H Hopkins (Aus) 72, 73; S Waugh (Aus) 73, 72, L Tadiotto (Bel) 74, 71; K Poppmeier (Austria) 72, 73; L Maritz (SA) 74, 71; D Reid 73, 72; P Meunier Lebouc (Fr) 72, 73.

ABERDOVEY: Welsh seniors championship: Leading final scores: 148: I Hughes (Abergele and Pensarn) 75, 73. 151: J Powall (Hindhead) 76, 75. 155: D Hart (Llangollen) 79, 76. 156: R Webb (Bargoed) 80, 76; D Ange (Aberdovey) 78, 78; R Edwards (Wrexham) 78, 78; L Niven (Neath) 78, 78

HOCKEY

BREDA, Holland: Men's four nations' tournament: England 4 Pakistan 3, Holland 5 South Africa 1

POWERBOATING

GUERNSEY: World two-litre championship, second leg of three: 1, P Little GB, 400; 2, G Montavoci (It) 300; 3, A Staif (Nor) 225; 4, R Smith (Jer) 169; 5, M Mumford (GB) 127; 6, M Hammerstedt (Swe) 95. Overall championship positions: 1, Little 700; 2, U Ingvarsson (Swe) 400; 3, Montavoci 395; 4, Staif 384; 5, Mumford 254; 6, Smith 240

RUGBY LEAGUE

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Adelaide Rams: Tries: Quinn 2, Stone 2, Maybon, Williamson. Goals: Williamson 5. Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Rivett, Sheridan. Att: 14,360

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Manly 28 St George 4.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Australian Capital Territory President's XV 22 France XV 31 (at Bruce Stadium, Adelaide)

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 43 Hull 46

SHEFFIELD: Silver Helmet match race: R Kessler (Sheffield, holder) bt S Robson (Hull).

SQUASH

CAIRO: Al-Ahram international championships: **Men: Second round:** D Harris (Eng) bt J White (Aus) 15-13, 15-5, 15-5; A Barada (Egypt) bt P Marshall (Eng) 17-14, 15-11, 15-10; P Nicol (Scot) bt Zubair Jahan (Pak) 15-3, 15-14, 15-6; R Eyles (Aus) bt D Jenson (Aus) 15-7, 15-9, 10-15, 15-7. **Women: Second round:** C Jackman (Eng) bt M Hegazy (Egypt) 9-1, 9-2, 9-4; C Owens (Aus) bt F Geaves (Eng) 9-0, 9-1, 9-8; S Schöne (Ger) bt P Beams (NZ) 9-4, 4-9, 9-1, 9-0; E Irving (Aus) bt R Macree (Eng) 9-5, 9-4, 8-10, 9-7; J Martin (Eng) bt L Charman (Eng) 9-2, 2-9, 10-8, 9-0; M Martin (Aus) bt N Grainger (SA) 4-9, 9-4, 7-9, 9-0, 9-2; S FitzGerald (Aus) bt C Nitch (SA) 9-5, 9-3, 9-2; S Horner (Eng) bt R Grinham (Aus) 9-0, 9-2, 9-1

SWIMMING

GLASGOW: Scottish national championships: **Men: Freestyle: 200m:** 1, A Clayton (GB squad) 1min 51.68sec; 2, J Salter (GB squad) 1:52.08; 3, G Meadows (GB squad) 1:52.10. **Backstroke: 50m:** 1, M Harris (GB squad) 26.36sec; 2, N Willey (GB squad) 26.54; 3, A Pullan (Leatherhead) 27.83. **Butterfly: 100m:** 1, J Hickman (GB squad) 54.76sec; 2, N Fibbens (GB squad) 56.95; 3, C Jones (Newcastle) 57.81. **Medley: 400m:** 1, A Turner (GB squad) 4min 31.93sec; 2, E Clement (GB squad) 4:32.85; 3, D Wigg (Newcastle) 4:33.98. **4 x 100m medley relay:** 1, Stirling Students 4min 01.67sec; 2, Edinburgh 4:01.78; 3, Newcastle 4:04.12. **Women: Freestyle: 200m:** 1, K Pickering (GB squad) 2min 02.31sec; 2, V Horner (GB squad) 2:02.44; 3, C Huddart (GB squad) 2:03.55. **Backstroke: 50m:** 1, S Price (GB squad) 30.44sec; 2, P McLean (Stirling Students) 31.71; 3, S Duncan (Leatherhead) 32.55. **Butterfly: 100m:** 1, S Rolph (GB squad) 1min 02.32sec; 2, C Foot (GB squad) 1:02.74; 3, D Hinsley (Bradford) 1:03.76. **Medley: 400m:** 1, S Nesbit (GB squad) 4min 59.16sec; 2, T Devies (Coventry) 5:03.95; 3, K Orr (Edinburgh) 5:06.96. **4 x 100m medley relay:** 1, Bradford 4min 36.31sec; 2, Edinburgh 4:37.93; 3, Glasgow 4:40.43.

TENNIS

EDGBASTON: DFS Classic women's tournament: Third round: Y Basuki (Indo) bt S Cacic (US) 6-1, 4-6, 6-1; N Tauziat (Fr) bt O Barabanschikova (Bela) 7-5, 6-1; M Maleeva (Bul) bt L Golarsa (It) 6-7, 6-1, 6-4; N Zvereva (Bela) bt C Torrens-Valero (Sp) 8-2, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Basuki bt Maleeva 7-6, 6-2; K Kunce (Aus) bt L Raymond (US) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; Tauziat bt Zvereva 6-1, 2-6, 6-2.

BOLOGNA: Men's tournament: Second round: M Martelli (It) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; F Mantilla (Sp) bt F Meligeni (Br) 6-7, 7-5, 6-2; A Gaudenzi (It) bt F Squillari (Arg) 4-6, 6-4, 7-6; A Berasategui (Sp) bt A Portas (Sp) 6-3, 6-2; G Kuerten (Br) bt J Diaz (Sp) 6-4, 6-2. Quarter-final: Martelli bt H Arazi (Mor) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

HALLE, Germany: Men's tournament: Second round: M Stich (Ger) bt G Stafford (SA) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; P Haarhuis (Holl) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-7, 6-3, 7-6; R Reneberg (US) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 4-6, 7-6, 7-6. Quarter-finals: P Korda (Cz) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-3, 6-4; B Becker (Ger) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4, 6-2; Kafelnikov bt Stich 7-6, 6-7, 6-3; Haarhuis bt Reneberg 6-2, 6-1

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Kallis puts on vintage exhibition

By John Thicknesse

CARDIFF (second day of four): Middlesex, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 34 runs behind Glamorgan

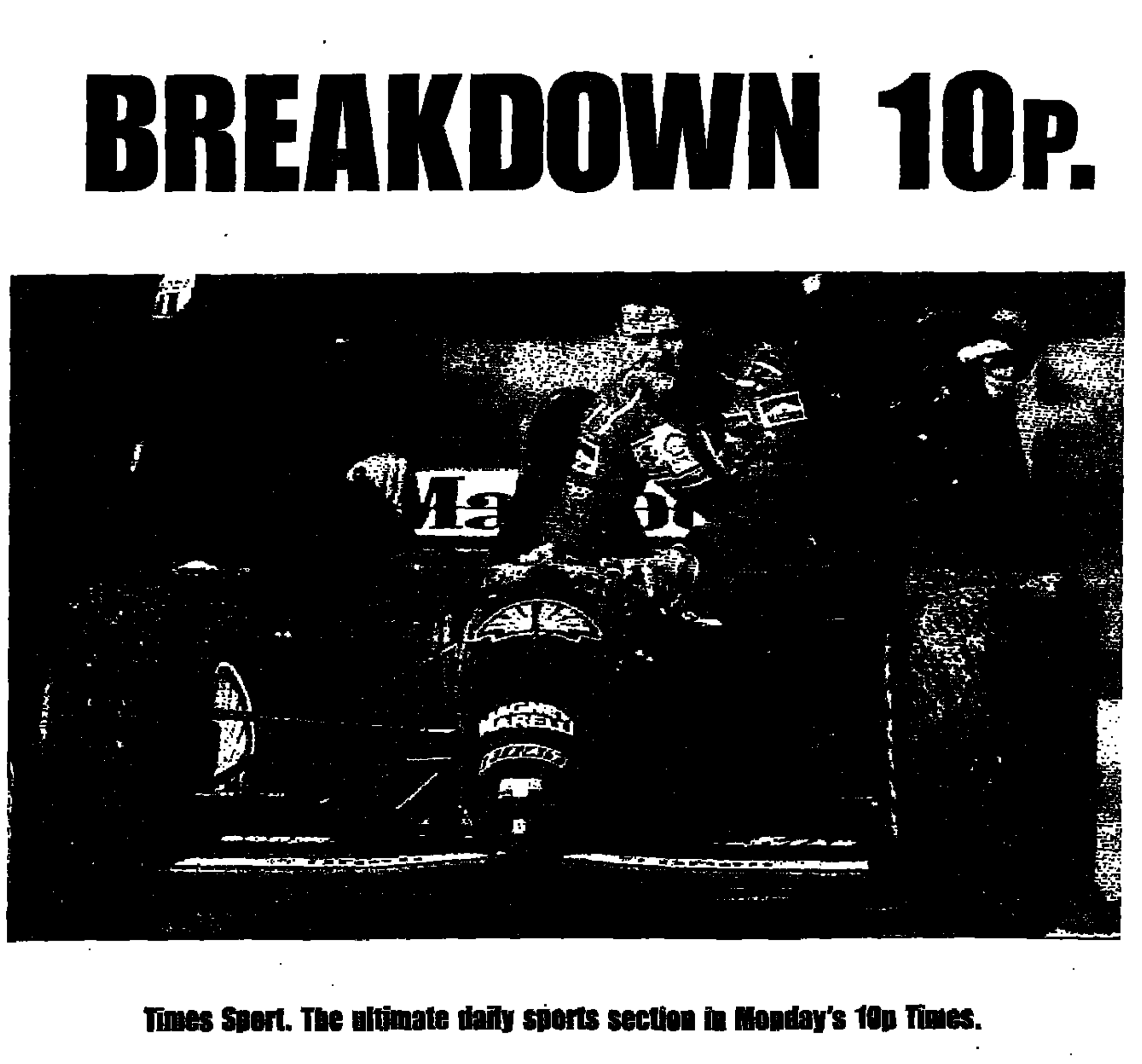
JACQUES KALLIS came within four runs of his second hundred in three innings for Middlesex yesterday, and it was by no means only for the fact that they are both South Africans that the memories he conjured up were those of Barry Richards. Kallis is an inch or so shorter than Hampshire's great batsman of the 1970s and more burly, but in stance, poise, timing, range of stroke, not to say slight air of boredom, they have so much in common that it seems certain that the 21-year-old is on the threshold of a prolific Test career.

In spite of spending all but three balls of the morning under covers, the pitch had lost all of its inconsistent first-day bounce. Waqar Younis could, nevertheless, have been a daunting proposition running in with the wind behind him. Watching Kallis handle him, however, you never would have known it.

Stung by seeing Kallis nonchalantly clip one of his prize yorkers through midwicket, Waqar followed with two balls that might have got any batsman out in the first 20 minutes of an innings. The first nearly did, Kallis surviving a close leg-before decision. Then Waqar dug in an off-stump lifter. Kallis killed it four yards short of gully. Class.

Ramprakash was also brilliant against Waqar in his first spell, hooking him so violently that the Pakistan bowler switched his bat-pad man to deep backward-square. For once, though, Ramprakash, suffering from flu, found himself second best for elegance during a second-wicket stand of 160 in 42 overs.

Kallis did not put a foot wrong until, on 91, he padded up to Croft and was granted the benefit of doubt. In the next over, he dabbed at Watkin and was caught by Maynard low at second slip. It was a travesty that he failed to make a hundred.



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TENNIS: SURPRISE DEFEAT FOR SAMPRAS IMPROVES PROSPECTS OF BRITISH TRIUMPH AT QUEEN'S

Rusedski conjures magical victory

By Julian Muscat

A TRANSFORMATION as sudden as it was unexpected yesterday swept Greg Rusedski past Patrick Rafter to become the first British semi-finalist in 19 years of these Stella Artois championships. He will today play Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia, for a place in the final.

Later in the day, Rusedski's prospects of winning the tournament advanced significantly when Pete Sampras was surprisingly beaten by Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden. Sampras looked a shadow of the most feared grass-court player as Bjorkman, the No 8 seed, rallied from a lacklustre start to prevail 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. This defeat for the world No 1 raises questions about his ability to recapture the Wimbledon crown he lost to Richard Krajicek 12 months ago.

Sampras has made premature exits here before but rarely has he looked so vulnerable. In 13 matches since landing his first three tournaments of the year — in Melbourne, San Jose and Philadelphia — Sampras has lost seven matches and won only six.

Bjorkman took time to adjust to the speed of the bounce on his centre court debut at Queen's Club. Once accustomed, however, he returned the Sampras service with gusto to unsettle one of the game's finest exponents. True, he wavered when 4-2 ahead in the concluding set, allowing Sampras to level the match. But an immediate riposte, facilitated by poor serving from Sampras, saw Bjorkman extend the sequence of upsets initiated at the recent French Open.

All players are keen to see the back of Sampras, and Rusedski is no exception. Yet the latter's prospects of overcoming Rafter, the third successive Australian he has dispatched, looked slim for half the match. Rafter maintained a firm stranglehold but Rusedski slipped his leash with joyful abandon just as he looked set to succumb. Where he once mis-hit service returns, he now struck outright winners to shred Rafter's carefully-scripted game-plan.

Initially, Rusedski got little change from standing up to his opponent's service. Only sporadically did the No 16 seed trouble Rafter; even then he failed to string together a meaningful sequence. "I made a change to stand further back and my returns got better," Rusedski said. "As my returns got better, I served better. I was thrilled with the second part of the match."

In truth, Rusedski, tamely broken in game seven, could hardly have regressed from the lethargy that cost him the opening set 6-4. Rafter ruthlessly attacked Rusedski's second service and a break to lead 4-3 in the second set seemed to signal Rusedski's passing.

It was then that Rusedski caught fire, immediately redeeming the break with one of his own. At 6-5, he conjured yet another, completed by a dipping service return that epitomised his metamorphosis. He never looked back.

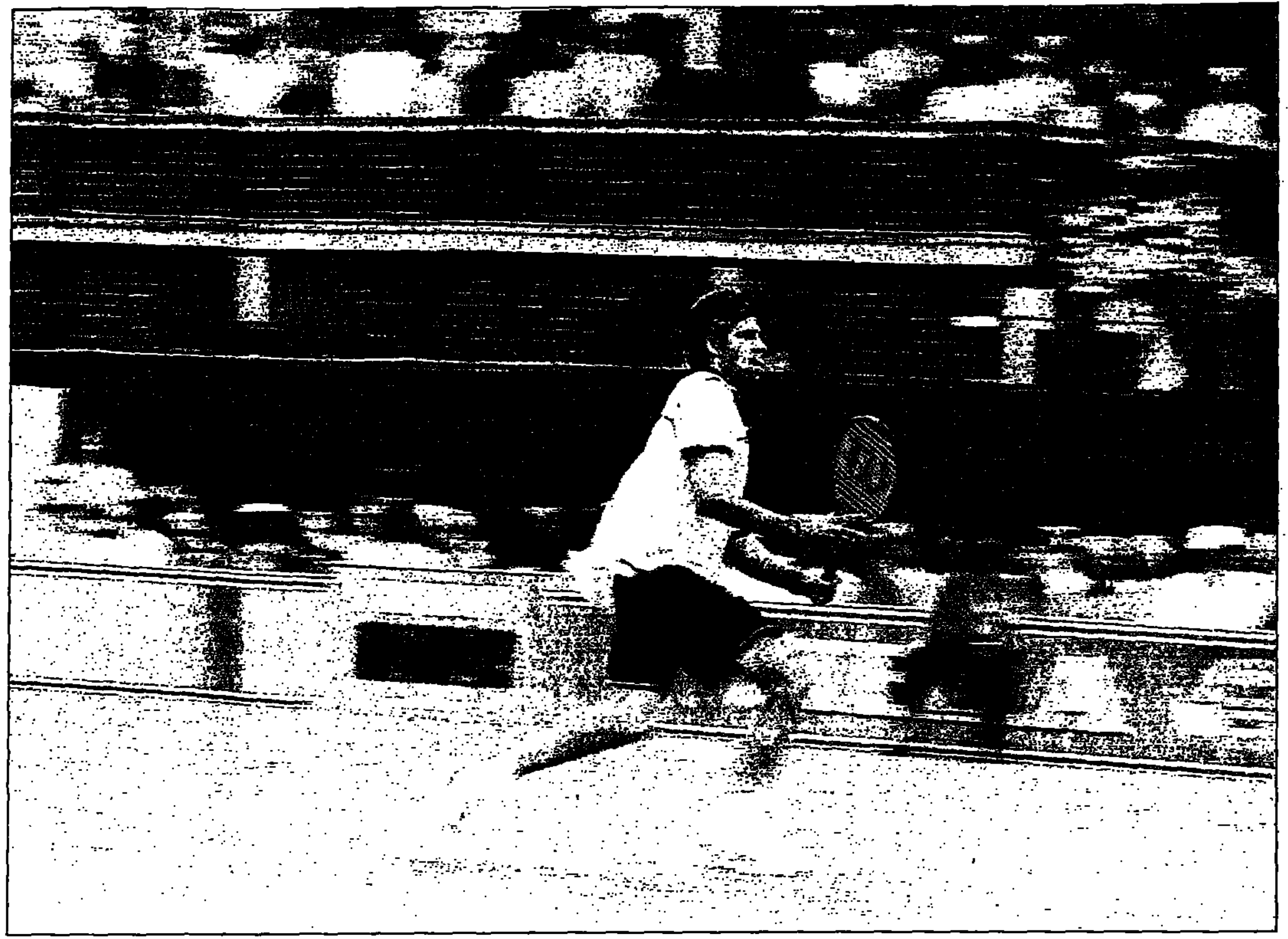
Rusedski squared the contest in the course of reeling off five successive games. The best of them came via another break, this time in game two of the deciding set, when a succession of searing returns left Rafter swiping at air.

A backhand winner down the line engineered break point and Rusedski converted it with an identical rebuke of Rafter's service, this time down the forehand wing. Thoroughly dispirited, and tired from his recent exertions in Paris, Rafter never threatened to recover, Rusedski racing away to a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 verdict.

"It's nice to be the first British player to make the semi-finals here," Rusedski said. "I played some of my best tennis of the year in the middle part of the match but there is always room for improvement. I am handling the situation of being out on the court better these days. That is the key to winning these close matches."

Whatever the outcome to Rusedski's march on this title, his world ranking, presently 44, will next week rise to a few spots below his career-best of 33. Unlike Henman, who went out in the third round here on Thursday, Rusedski's confidence is returning at just the right time.

Yet it could all have been so different. He was fortunate to overhaul Mark Woodforde, of Australia, when rain intervened in their first-round match and he staved off a match point in the second round against Kevin Ullyett, of South Africa. If the fates have been kind to him, he has, at least, taken maximum advantage.


Rusedski rushes in to volley on his own service in the quarter-final victory over Rafter at Queen's Club yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

RESULTS

QUARTER-FINALS: G Rusedski (GB) bt P Rafter (Aus) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3. M Philippoussis (Aus) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6-2, 6-7, 6-4; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt P Sampras (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-3, 7-6

Basuki pulls the strings in victory

YAYUK BASUKI, of Indonesia, reached the semi-finals of the DFS Classic women's tournament at Edgbaston yesterday. Basuki, the No 4 seed, beat Magdalena Maleeva, of Bulgaria, seeded seventh, 7-6 6-2 in 76 minutes and the victory could have been easier.

Basuki broke her opponent's service twice to go 3-0 up in the first set, only to allow Maleeva to pull back to 6-6; but she stepped up her game again in the second set to open up a 5-2 lead, gaining two match points with the help of two Maleeva double faults in the eighth game.

Maleeva saved one with a drop shot, but Basuki hit a winner on her next opportunity to make sure of her place in the last four.

"I was very pleased to win against Magdalena," Basuki said. "In the first set I was struggling but I got better in the second."

Venus Williams, 16, of the United States, will make her first appearance in Britain when she plays her first match on grass at Eastbourne today. Williams, having refused a wild card into the Direct Line Insurance championships to get more grass-court practice, will play Wiltrud Probst, 28, from Germany, in the first qualifying round and will have to win two more matches, tomorrow and on Monday, to gain a place in the main draw.

Certainly she does not lack confidence. She expects to win her three qualifying matches and, if she does, she will go into the competition proper with an advantage over her rivals, who will start the tournament cold.

IN BRIEF

Davies makes waves with dashing victory

TERESA DAVIES and Bev Robertson put a stop to the domination of the Great Britain team members at the Scottish swimming championships in Glasgow yesterday when they won the 200 metres butterfly and 50 metres breaststroke respectively. Davies, from Coventry, was too strong for her rivals over the closing stages of her race. Natalie Turner, of Stockport, tried in vain to close the gap and came within 0.77sec of Davies's time of 2min 19.31sec.

Robertson, from Aberdeen, dominated her rivals to complete a breaststroke double. Her winning time of 33.53sec was more than one second faster than the rest of the field. James Hickman, the world short-course champion, from Stockport, produced an impressive time of 1min 59.59sec to win the 200 metres butterfly by some seven seconds from Edward Clement, his Britain team-mate. The Britain team took all the medals in the men's and women's 400 metres freestyle.

France stand firm

RUGBY UNION: France repulsed a determined Australian Capital Territory President's XV for a 31-22 win in a rain-marred tour match in Canberra yesterday. Jean-Luc Sadourny, the full back, scored two tries for France, who secured a second victory at the beginning of their tour.

Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand wing, could be playing again within three months after treatment for a kidney disease. John Mayhew, the team doctor, said that he could play most of the national championship season for Counties-Manukau.

Thomson ousts Allcock

BOWLS: The new Churchill Insurance English Bowls Players Association singles ranking list reveals that Tony Allcock, the world outdoor singles champion, has been pushed into second place by Andy Thomson. Although Allcock won the world indoor pairs and national indoor triples titles, no ranking points are awarded for team events. He did less well at singles. Thomson, by contrast, reached the final of the world indoor singles.

Townsend shares lead

GOLF: Peter Townsend, the former Walker Cup and Ryder Cup player, scored a 68, four under par, to share the lead after the first round of the De Vere Hotels Seniors Classic at Belton Woods, near Grantham, yesterday. It was the best start of Townsend's fledgeling career on the burgeoning European Seniors Tour and he collected six birdies and two bogeys to lead the field alongside T R Jones, the former US Navy champion, from Washington.

Mitchell not fast enough

ATHLETICS: Dennis Mitchell, the dual world championship 100 metres bronze medal-winner, and John Godina, the world shot champion, failed to produce their best at the United States world championship trials in Indianapolis and both are out of the team for Athens in August. Mitchell, 31, the only man to represent the United States in three Olympic Games at 100 metres, bowed out in the semi-finals, where he could finish only sixth.

Record fine for Rodman

BASKETBALL: Dennis Rodman, of Chicago Bulls, added to his standing as the game's most controversial player when he was fined a record $50,000 (about £31,000) for an obscene insult of the Mormon community in Utah during the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals this week. The fine is the largest in NBA history. The Bulls are one victory away from winning the championship series against Utah Jazz.

GOLF

Scots make double assault on amateur championship

By Patricia Davies

THE SCOTS have high hopes that Mhairi McKay and Alison Rose will meet in the final of the British women's amateur championship at Cruden Bay, near Peterhead, today in what would be the first all-Scottish final since 1981 — a piper could be heard practising his skirl during the quarter-finals yesterday. First, however, they have to overcome the formidable Franco-Welsh axis of Maitena Alsuguren and Becky Morgan.

McKay, who demonstrated an alarming tendency to fritter away large leads before recovering to win her matches against Karen Stupples and Eleanor Pilgrim, plays Alsuguren, 25, a Basque who lives in Strasbourg. The Frenchwoman, very calm and composed, disposed of Janice Moodie, the leading qualifier, at the 18th on a cloudy but mercifully dry morning and, on a chillier afternoon, was one under par when she defeated Silvia Cavalleri, the European champion, again on the 18th.

Rose flirted with defeat when she drove out of bounds at the last against Ana Belen Sánchez, of Spain, but the Scot had a birdie three at the 21st to scrape through to the quarter-finals, where she was less troubled by Marieke Zelsmann, of Holland.

Morgan, quietly impressive, has proved beyond doubt that she is a player of high quality and that her place in the final last year was no fluke. She won her matches against the tenacious Englishwoman, Sarah Sanderson, and Karen Margrethe Juul, of Denmark, at the 17th, keeping her concentration during some cold and seemingly interminable waiting around in the afternoon.

McKay, who has withdrawn from the Scotland side for the women's European team championship next month because of a family commitment, is admirably phlegmatic on the golf course — a quality her supporters needed in abundance. Four up after 11 holes against Stupples, a Curtis Cup teammate, the Scot lost four of the next five holes, but won at the 19th when Stupples took three putts from the front edge.

There was more of the same against Pilgrim, the Welsh champion, who helped her own cause by single-putting no fewer than six times on the back nine. Wisely, McKay's mother watched Rose's match — it was easier on her nerves — as her daughter squandered another four-hole lead. Four up after 11 again, the fair-haired Scot was back to all square by the 16th. She missed a short putt at the 12th, was behind a beach hut at the 14th and was on the beach off the tee at the 15th. The hole is called Blin' Dunt because it is a blind tee shot, but it was more like blind panic for some of the McKay clan.

McKay, herself, remained calm and Pilgrim, who also won the 16th, spoiled her comeback with a bad drive into the rough at the 17th. McKay pitched dead for a birdie four and managed a half with par four at the last.

DETAILS

Third round

M Alsuguren (Fr) bt J Moodie 2 holes; S Cavalleri (It) bt S Wood (Aberdeen Ladies') 4 and 3; M McKay (Turnberry) bt K Stupples (Royal Cinque Ports) 19th, E Pilgrim (Celtic Manor) bt E R Power (Kilkenny) 2 and 1; B Morgan (Monmouth) bt S Sanderson (The Berkshire) 2 and 1, K M Juul (Den) bt M Hedberg (Swe) 4 and 2. M Zelsmann (Holl) bt K Burton (St George's Hill) 3 and 2; A Rose (Stirling) bt A B Sánchez (Sp) 21st

Quarter-finals

Alsuguren bt Cavalleri 2 holes; McKay bt Pilgrim 1 hole, Morgan bt Juul 2 and 1; Rose bt Zelsmann 3 and 2

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SQUASH

Nicol gets straight to the point

From Colin McQuillan
in Cairo

PETER NICOL, of Scotland, and Del Harris, the Englishman, will meet in the last eight of the Al Ahram international championships, near Cairo, after safely negotiating the second round.

Nicol, the No 3 seed, defeated Zubair Jahan, of Pakistan, in straight games to set up the quarter-final encounter with Harris, the No 8 seed, who had earlier removed John White, of Australia, by completing a 15-13, 15-5, 15-5 victory.

The other men's quarter-final decided will be between Rodney Eyles, of Australia, the No 2 seed, and Ahmed Barada, the local teenager, who resisted an encouraging comeback from Peter Marshall, the Nottingham-based former world No 2. Marshall was returning to tournament action after suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome.

Suzanne Horner, of Yorkshire, Cassandra Jackman, from Norfolk, and Jane Martin, of Northumberland, are through to the quarter-finals of the first women's tournament played here.

Horner defeated Rachael Grinham, of Australia, 9-0, 9-2, 9-1 in the first round of a 16-strong field to meet Sarah FitzGerald, of Australia, the top-seeded world champion, while Jackman defeated May Hegazy, of Egypt, 9-1, 9-2, 9-4 in the same half of the draw and will meet Carol Owens, of Australia.

Martin put out Linda Charman 9-2, 2-9, 10-8, 9-0 to set up a meeting in the last eight with Michelle Martin, from Australia, the No 2 seed.

The other quarter-final in the bottom half of the women's draw is between Liz Irving, of Australia, who yesterday put out Rebecca Macree, the Essex player, and Sabine Schone, of Germany.

Results, page 45

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betts calls for curb on imports to regenerate English game

By Christopher Irvine

ODSAL and the atmosphere generated there by Bradford Bulls is much changed from when Denis Betts played there with Wigan, apart from the rain this week. Betts and Auckland Warriors anticipate an atypical British reception tonight, one based on intensity, passion and self-belief — elements missing from large parts of the domestic game.

Although Bradford narrowly lost their opening pool A world club championship match to Penrith, Betts detected no inferiority complex — another bane of the British game in the Betts book. "They came out doing the things they wanted to do," he said. "They weren't worried by Penrith. That's not a normal attitude in England, which can only change if standards improve throughout the competition."

He has found the early championship results depressing, but not surprising, and believes that, if the Australasian domination does not trigger root-and-branch reform, starting with schools development, a drastic reduction of more than 200 overseas players in the three divisions and contraction rather than expansion of the Super League, then nothing will.

Betts is one of only five British players in the two rival competitions in Australia. "There are a lot of poor-quality overseas players in Britain," he said. "No disrespect to them, but it's a flaw in the English game that, because they are from Australia and New Zealand, they will somehow improve the game. In the Super League over there, there's me and Barrie-Jon Mather, who can't get into the Perth side.

"We've got to cut down on the quota [six overseas players per club]. They should have to be current internationals if they want to play here. We might see a drop in standards for a couple of years, but what it might do is give the chance to some kids to step in and improve their game."

Betts's justified fear is that, when the separate southern hemisphere competitions combine next year, as seems inevitable, British clubs will be queueing for those players made surplus to requirements.

"I wouldn't let them come, as it would only feed the same mentality," he said. "Maybe we've got to move two steps back to move four or five forward, but, instead of wanting success now, clubs have got to look at the big picture.

"The way it's going, there will be no English players left. That's no good for us internationally. We're struggling enough as it is. We're the third strongest team, after New Zealand whitewashed us 3-0 last year.

"We've got to start building up from somewhere and that means improvements in schools and the people coming into the game."

From leaving Wigan to join Auckland two years ago, because winning had got too easy, Betts has almost come full circle. Next season he rejoins Wigan, who no longer enjoy a monopoly domestically, but, significantly, were the only side in the first round to beat Australian opposition. Wigan's problem, according to Betts, is repeating the trick in Brisbane next Monday.

He said: "At Canterbury, Wigan played with an intensity not associated with the English game. They ran for everything, they scrambled. Defensively, they were everywhere, and they were a lot hungrier than Canterbury, who, when they couldn't breach their defence, began to panic.

"The biggest test for all the English sides this weekend is lifting themselves a second time. When Wigan beat Penrith and Brisbane in the world club challenge matches, they had to play one big game and then go back to the mediocre level they were used to. This time, they've got to play three games at the same level every week.

"That's why the test team never really carries through a series, because the players can be lifted for one game, but the intensity can't be sustained."

Betts: cutting remarks

Leeds fade away in mismatch

Adelaide Rams............34
Leeds Rhinos..................8

By Christopher Irvine

A SECOND world club championship pool B defeat for Leeds was already assured at the Adelaide Oval yesterday by the time that Terry Newton, a second-half forward substitute, was sent off in the 63rd minute for a dangerous challenge on David Boughton, the Adelaide second-row forward.

Newton's dismissal for a spear tackle is unlikely to be viewed sympathetically by the Australasian Super League disciplinary judiciary, which will sit before the Leeds party travels home tomorrow. Reduced to 12 players, Leeds's plight worsened as the Rams added three more tries in yet another mismatch.

Leeds had fought hard to remain on competitive terms and trailed 8-4 at the break, but defensive fatigue and the superior fitness of the Australians overwhelmed them.

Unlike the North Queensland match, when they slumped from the start and were beaten 42-20, Leeds took the lead after two minutes. McDermott broke clear on halfway and was supported by Sheridan, who easily rounded Maybon. Harris struck the post with a straightforward conversion attempt, and a quick try in response by Quinn, converted by Williamson, put Adelaide ahead.

Adelaide's only other score of the half was a second goal by Williamson, as Leeds ably resisted the onslaught. However, early in the second half, as the penalties against Leeds for holding down in the tackle mounted and Gibson was sent to the sin-bin, the dam broke.

Williamson jinked through the depleted cover for a try which he also converted. When Rivett was tackled into touch after some sloppy passing, Walters sent Stone over.

No sooner had Gibson returned to the field than Newton was dismissed for his rash challenge. Quinn quickly collected his second try and Maybon another. Cummins and Gibson combined to dispatch Rivett, which brought a brief respite, but Stone had the final word with his second touchdown.

SCORERS: Adelaide: Tries: Quinn (2), Stone (2), Maybon, Williamson. Goals: Williamson (5). Leeds: Tries: Sheridan, Rivett.

ADELAIDE RAMS: R Maybon, W Simonds, C Quinn, S Kiri, M Maguire, L Williamson, D Schifilliti, A Cann, K Walters, M Corvo, D Boughton, B Mamoudo, C Blair. Substitutes: S Stone, K Campion, A Hick, P Wrigley

LEEDS RHINOS: D Gibson, P Sterling, F Cummins, P Hassan, L Rivett, I Harris, R Sheridan, M Masella, W Collins, B McDermott, A Morley, A Farrell, G Mercer. Substitutes: G Holroyd, A Hay, T Newton, J Mathiou

Referee: S Clark (Sydney)

[illegible]

Brundle aims to let car do talking

FROM KEVIN EASON
IN LE MANS

MURRAY WALKER will have to manage without Martin Brundle, his erudite sidekick, in the commentary box at the Canadian Grand Prix tomorrow. Brundle, the driver who exchanged his Formula One car for the microphone as ITV's grand prix pundit, will be back behind the wheel for the Le Mans 24-hour race.

While Walker is settling into his seat for the grand prix, Brundle will be close to the end of one of the most exhausting events in motor racing, driving through the night, snacking on pasta and gallons of water and sneaking a couple of hours' restless sleep in a motor-home.

The exhaustion will fade quickly, though, if Brundle can repeat his success of 1990, when he won here with Jaguar, and he has the car and the back-up for a famous victory over the fancied and well-tried McLarens and Porsches.

He is driving a Nissan R390 GTI, built by TWR — Tom Walkinshaw's team that runs Damon Hill's Arrow Formula One car and won Le Mans twice with Jaguar. Brundle took pole position in pre-qualifying and, given reliability, there is no reason the Nissan cannot win at the first time of asking.

It would be a victory to please the 70,000 British supporters expected to watch a race that attracts one of the biggest followings in European motor racing.

The appeal of the spectacle, particularly the night driving, is great and the event brings together a cast list of famous, though all-but-retired, drivers. Le Mans is the one race for which drivers will happily leave their pipe and slippers behind, so Brundle, 38, leads a formidable line-up that includes Mario Andretti, 57, Michele Alboreto, 40, Ricardo Patrese, 43, Derek Bell, 56, and Nelson Piquet, 44.

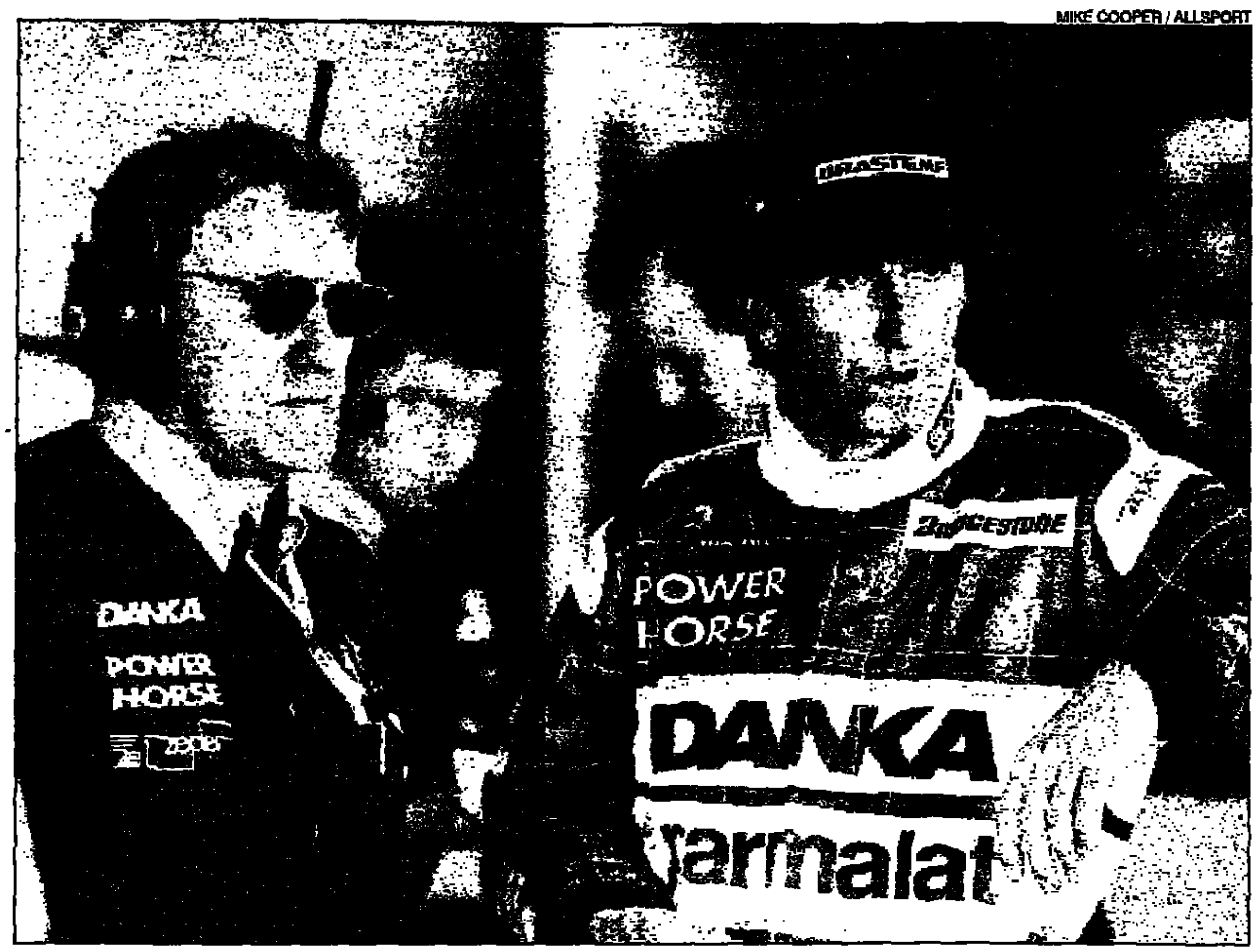
Celebrity challenge, Car 97

World champion unwilling to remain at back of Formula One grid

Hill waiting restlessly for Arrows to take off

MICHAEL CALVIN

In Montreal



MIKE COOPER / ALLSPORT

Arrows' poor reliability and lack of success continue to give Walkinshaw, left, and Hill plenty to think about

TWO men with conflicting yet coincidental agendas parted as another frantic working day drew to a close. Tom Walkinshaw headed for the airport, to subject his body to a sleepless weekend of transatlantic commuting. Damon Hill headed for the Portakabin that acted as a debriefing room, to focus his mind on the perennial problem of finishing a race for Arrows.

The cynics, lurking beside the Olympic rowing lake that borders the pitlane at the Gilles Villeneuve circuit in Montreal, were exultant. Even as Walkinshaw scuttled to catch his overnight Air France flight to Paris, his nomadic weekend, flitting between Le Mans and the Canadian Grand Prix, was being touted as a telling symbol of a team with a warped sense of priorities.

Walkinshaw required six hours, and the small matter of £4.5 million, to convince Hill of the wisdom of offering Formula One's habitual underachievers the kudos of a world championship and the complementary qualities of a rigorously applied talent. The men are due to meet again, after the British Grand Prix next month, to discuss whether the relationship has any long-term viability.

Yet, on the eve of the most critical race of a troubled season, harsh commercial logic dictated that the needs of Arrows be balanced with the other constituent parts of Walkinshaw's TWR Group, which extends beyond Formula One and sports car racing to the British touring car championship and the world superbike championship.

Walkinshaw established his reputation at Le Mans, where, for a fevered 15-hour fragment of his weekend, he will oversee the fortunes of three Nissans and two Porsches. There is every chance that one will win but, at 9am tomorrow, he is committed to leaving by helicopter for Paris, and the first Concorde flight to New York. He will arrive in Montreal, to assist in final preparations for the grand prix, just as the fabled 24-hour race is finishing.

He has made the journey once already, having left Le Mans at 8am on Thursday to link up with Hill in Montreal, where, yesterday, he plummeted from an initially encouraging eighth to 17th on the provisional grid. The self-evident strain of such a schedule, which involves sleeping in the air and will cost an estimated £20,000 when fuel and private landing fees are taken into account, has bred a distinctive sense of humour.

The inevitable debate about such split loyalties was launched with a gentle half volley of a question. "What will give you greatest pleasure this weekend, a points finish for Damon or a win at Le Mans?" someone asked. "A night's sleep," Walkinshaw shot back, with a sly smile.

The underlying issue cannot be so easily dismissed, however. Though ultimate judgments are premature, Hill, who has yet to finish a race for Arrows, is in danger of mounting the least successful defence of a world championship. His initial target, to pass Jody Scheckter's two-point total in 1980, testifies to the sudden restriction on his talents.

Walkinshaw is a winner by nature, and rejects any suggestion that his adoption of the lifestyle of a shuttle diplomat signifies a lack of commitment. "I can miss one qualifying session here without it being catastrophic," he said. Yet he is also acutely aware that Arrows have three races to convince Hill, whose one-year contract offers scope to listen to the overtures of rival teams, of the scale of their ambition.

"We spent a lot of money on Damon to give us a sense of focus," he said. "Of course I'd like to keep him. It would be silly not to. It may become an issue of timing. I suspect he wants to make a decision on his future sooner rather than later. We have taken remedial action, but have got only a few weeks to address things. We have to see whether we can offer him the type of package that stacks up into something that can keep a world champion."

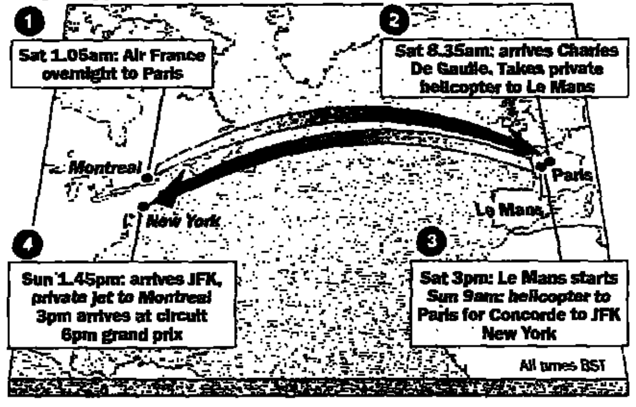
The central problem of reliability has involved exploiting the corporate embarrassment of Yamaha, who have been persuaded to take a more hands-on approach to engine development. The recruitment of John Barnard, the design guru, as technical director has added weight to the three-year plan to create a credible championship-challenging team. Yet, in the short term, Hill's perspective has been changed brutally.

"It's not so much a case of Tom having to satisfy me," Hill said. "I have to satisfy myself. I want to see Arrows get what they want and, if the necessary ingredients are brought in to make that happen, I'd love to be a part of it. But I am a world champion and I am not going to undersell myself. I believe I'm capable of winning another title.

"Nigel Mansell was 39 when he won his championship, so I have three years on him. People forget that in many ways I'm a late developer. This is only my fifth season in Formula One. I feel young in heart and mind. Maybe, after ten years in the game, I'd find it very difficult to pack my bags and prepare for another time change: but, at the moment, I still get the buzz."

Such enthusiasm is genuine, but Hill is no naive idealist. If he looks at Walkinshaw and hears the gentle thud of a man falling between several stools, he will transfer his loyalties in an instant.

WALKINSHAW'S WEEKEND


1
Sat 1.05am: Air France overnight to Paris
2
Sat 8.35am: arrives Charles De Gaulle. Takes private helicopter to Le Mans
3
Sat 3pm: Le Mans starts Sun 9am: helicopter to Paris for Concorde to JFK New York
4
Sun 1.45pm: arrives JFK, private jet to Montreal 3pm arrives at circuit 6pm grand prix
Montreal
New York
Paris
Le Mans
All times BST

DETAILS FROM MONTREAL

PRACTICE TIMES: 1, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1min 20.289sec, 2, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:20.416, 3, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:20.562, 4, *J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 1:20.624*, 5, O Panis (Fr, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1:20.727; 6, J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:20.876, 7, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:20.930, 8, E Irvine (Ire, Ferrari) 1:20.987, 9, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:21.201, 10, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:21.269, 11, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 1:21.315, 12, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:21.372, 13, G Morbidelli (It, Sauber) 1:21.415; 14, *D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes)* 1:21.468, 15, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:21.777, 16, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) *1:21.848*, 17, *D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha)* 1:22.460, 18, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:22.550, 19, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:22.708, 20, S Nakano (Japan, Prost-Mugen-Honda) 1:22.930; 21, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1:23.826, 22, J Trulli (It, Minardi-Hart) 1:24.131

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS
(after six races)

DRIVERS': 1, Villeneuve 30pts, 2, M Schumacher 27, 3, Panis 15, 4, Irvine 14, 5, Coulthard 11, 6 equal, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault), Frentzen and Hakkinen 10, 9, Alesi 7, 10, Barrichello 6, 11, Herbert 5, *12 equal, R Schumacher and Fisichella* 4, 14, Salo 2, 15, Larini 1

CONSTRUCTORS': 1, Ferrari 41, 2, Williams *40; 3, McLaren 21, 4, Benetton 17; 5, Prost* 15, 6, Jordan 8, 7 equal, Stewart and Sauber 6, 9, Tyrrell 2.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Canadian (Montreal) June 29: French (Magny-Cours) July 13: British (Silverstone) *July 27: German (Hockenheim) Aug 10:* Hungarian (Hungaroring) Aug 24: Belgian (Spa-Francorchamps). Sept 7: Italian (Monza) Sept 21: Austrian (A-1 Ring) Sept 28: Luxembourg (Nürburgring) Oct 12: Japanese (Suzuka) Oct 26: European (Jerez)

EQUESTRIANISM

Law enjoys degree of success in dressage

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

UNUSUALLY, none of the riders at the Bramham International Horse Trials in Yorkshire yesterday disturbed the top five from the opening day of dressage on Thursday. Andrew Hoy, a member of Australia's gold medal-winning team at the Olympics Games last year, retains his 4.4pts lead ahead of Mark Todd, of New Zealand, as the competition enters the speed and endurance phase today.

Leslie Law, one of the longlisted riders for the Great Britain team for the European championships in September, was the only rider to achieve a score in the 40s yesterday. Riding the eight-year-old Perryfields George, on which he was third at Blair last year, Law finished on 48pts to go into joint sixth place. Jean Pierre Blanco, of France, was the best of the foreign riders and is ninth on Echo Hill.

Karen Dixon, on Too Smart, finished on 58pts and she now has to prove that Too Smart can hold a straight line over the difficult corner fences that punctuate the cross-country course today.

Hoy, who has had only one cross-country school on his horse, Swizzle In, regards the straight route through the water — fences 16 and 17 — as more difficult than the lake complex at Badminton last month. He intends to take the longer, slower route. Law, whose Perryfields George is one of the less experienced horses, is worried about the corner fences. "This is the horse's first three-star event and it's a serious three-star — he could easily have a run-out," he said.

Todd: retained second

Jamie Atkinson, 20, a student at Nottingham University, who leads the *Yorkshire Post* Young Riders championship on Salerosa, a former polo pony, regards several of the longer options as "more difficult" than the quick routes.

Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, was one of the few to greet the course with unqualified approval. "It's bigger than usual, but it has a nice inviting start — Mark Phillips [the course designer] has done a very good job," he said.

BRAMHAM INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS: Positions after dressage: 1, Swizzle In (A Hoy, Aus) 37.0, 2, Broadcast News (M Todd, NZ) 41.4; 3, Supreme Rock (P Funnell, GB) 43.0, 4, Positive Rain (I Stark, GB) 46.0, 5, Walking on Water (M Ryan, Aus); equal 6, William Hill (N McDonnell, GB) and Perryfields George (L Law, GB) 48.8. Yorkshire *Post Young Riders: Positions* after dressage: 1, Salerosa (J Atkinson) 51.4, 2, Gumlen (L Wiegersma) 52.0; 3, Irish *Skater (J Robinson)* 52.2; 4, *Manhattan* M'Gandhi (C Prentice) 53.4, 5, Samantan (E Mackenzie) *57.8*; 6, *Overdrive* (M Diamantides) 58.2.

FOOTBALL

Gullit continues spending spree

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON AND DAVID MADDOCK

RUUD GULLIT, the Chelsea player-manager, made his second signing this week and fifth since the end of last season when he agreed a fee of £1.6 million for Bernard Lambourde, the Bordeaux central defender. It takes Gullit's spending this summer to £6.1 million.

Lambourde, 26, had helped Bordeaux to qualify for the Uefa Cup and still had three years to run on his contract. Frank Leboeuf, the France and Chelsea defender, alerted Gullit to Lambourde's availability. Chelsea's squad now includes 13 foreign players — from Russia, Romania, France, Italy, Norway, Holland, Nigeria and Uruguay. On Wednesday Gullit brought in Ed de Goey, the Holland and Feyenoord goalkeeper, for £2.25 million.

Ian Rush, the Leeds United and former Wales striker, has been told that he can leave the club. George Graham, the Leeds manager, said: "If he wants to find another club, we will do all we can to help him. I have told him that I cannot guarantee him a first-team place." Rush, 35, who joined from Liverpool last summer, scored only three goals in 42 appearances for Leeds.

Blackburn Rovers' interest in Stephane Henchoz, the Switzerland defender, from Hamburg became more acute yesterday after Colin Hendry, the Blackburn and Scotland central defender, told the club that he wants to leave.

Plymouth Argyle, of the Nationwide League second division, have been fined £30,000 for their part in a brawl during the match against Chesterfield in February. Two players from each side were sent off after the incident, with Ronnie Mauge, of Plymouth, having been dismissed earlier in the game. Chesterfield were fined £20,000.

Reluctant Gibson admits defeat

MIDDLESBROUGH have conceded defeat in their efforts to overturn the three-point deduction that ultimately cost them their place in the FA Carling Premiership last season (Russell Kempson writes).

Steve Gibson, the Middlesbrough chairman, had threatened to take the matter further, after the club had lost its initial appeal, but yesterday he said: "The attempts of my club to be heard and to receive a balanced and fair hearing have been met with a mixture of arrogance, complacency, incompetence, negligence and self-interest."

CYCLING

Dangerfield goes on trial again

BY PETER BRYAN

STUART DANGERFIELD, who has taken a break from racing since winning the British 25 miles championship a fortnight ago, returns to competition tomorrow in the 37¾-mile international mountain time-trial that opens the Isle of Man cycling week.

Last year Dangerfield looked a certain winner until he failed to take the hairpin at Governor's Bridge, had to make a U-turn to get back on course and lost by nine seconds to Anthony Langella, of France.

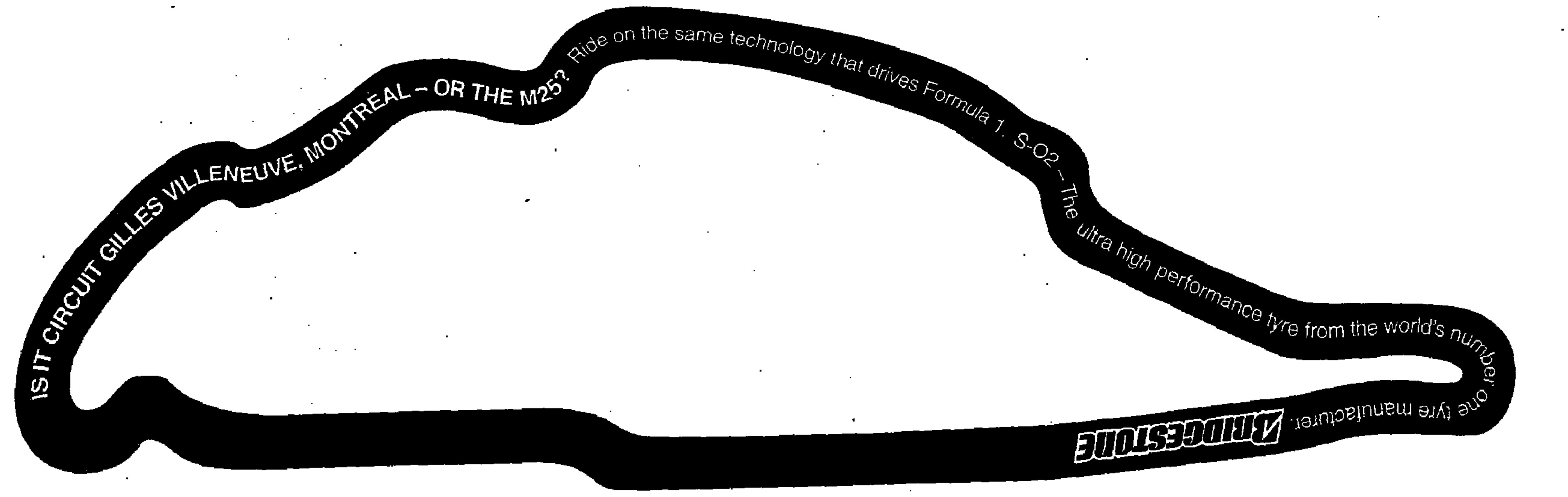
The line-up tomorrow includes Andy Wilkinson, the triple competition record-holder and British best all-rounder champion, and Keith Murray, the Army rider who recently set a new military world one-hour best of 46.267 kilometres in Manchester. He has won 15 events this year.

The late withdrawal by Germany leaves overseas opposition from French and Dutch teams.

The cycling week, with an entry of 500, ends next Friday with the 113-mile Manx international road race and the women's national road race championship. In the latter, Maria Lawrence defends her title alongside Anne Plant, the silver medal-winner last year. Plant has urged that the distance of the title race be increased to two laps of the TT circuit (75 miles), but the organisers will not budge from one lap.

□ Jens Heppner, the German who rides for Telekom, won the fifth stage of the Critérium du Dauphiné yesterday, a 169-kilometre run from Cavaillon to Digne-les-bains. Viacheslav Ekimov, of Russia, kept the overall leader's yellow jersey.

Heppner made his move 20 kilometres from the finish as he opened up a 50-second lead over Javier Pascual, of Spain, on the Corobin climb.



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RUGBY UNION 43

Missing internationals give Lions few clues in Natal

SPORT

CRICKET 44-45

Match peters out as Australians opt for batting practice

SATURDAY JUNE 14 1997

Briton aims to stick to straight and narrow to build on first-round lead in US Open

Montgomerie kept waiting

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN BETHESDA, MARYLAND

RAIN and the danger of lightning caused play in the 97th US Open to be suspended just before lunch yesterday. Only 12 players had completed their second rounds at Congressional Country Club when the klaxon was sounded to summon contestants in from the course. One was Peter Mitchell, the European Tour player, who had a 78, eight over par. It was Mitchell's first US Open and with a 36-hole aggregate of 153, 13 over par, he was certain to miss the cut.

At that point José María Olazábal was on the 16th tee. He was level par for his second round, one over in total, and six strokes behind Colin Montgomerie, the tournament leader, who had yet to start his second round. Nick Faldo, in the group behind Olazábal, had dropped strokes at the 2nd and the 12th but birdied the 8th. He was three over par and needed one birdie to be sure he would make the cut. He has played all four rounds in all but one of the ten US Opens in which he has competed.

Scots double 46

Tiger Woods had made virtually certain he would survive to the last two rounds of only his second major championship as a professional. He was level par with two holes remaining to be played. Hal Sutton, who was in second place, one stroke behind Montgomerie, and Mark McNulty, two strokes behind Montgomerie, were others who had not begun their second rounds. Darren Clarke, three over par after 18 holes, had slumped to six over after 23. Lee Westwood was two over par with ten holes of his second round still to be played.

The adventures and misadventures of John Daly continued. Daly, in his third tournament back since he was admitted to the Betty Ford Clinic for treatment for alcoholism, played nine holes of his second round and then withdrew from the event. He was three over par for his second round, ten strokes over par for the championship.

The reason for Daly's withdrawal was not known. "John gave no explanation and departed the golf course immediately," an official of the United States' Golf Association, said. When Daly was seen in the clubhouse soon after he had left the course, he was sweating and pale.

The delay will not have helped Montgomerie as he attempts to win his first major championship after losing in play-offs at the 1994 US Open and the 1995 US PGA championships. After warming up for the second round and making his way to the putting green when the rain started, he would have wanted to maintain some of the impetus he had on Thursday.

"I am as happy playing in the US Open as Tiger Woods is playing the Masters," Montgomerie said after his 65. "This is a tournament where I am very, very comfortable. I tend to drive the ball as straight as anybody and that is a great advantage here. I left some strokes on the course but everybody did, I am sure. It is a very demanding golf course. There is no let-up. There is not one hole on the card that says birdie on it."

"My God, he is so straight," Ben Crenshaw said when watching Montgomerie on television in the locker-room. "That is one heck of a score on this golf course today. It is a truly great round of golf."

Though only eight men broke par on Thursday, the course was not as fearsomely long as had been predicted. How else to explain that Mark McNulty, one of the shortest hitters, lay fourth, and Hale Irwin, who is 52, lay tenth?

"Straightness, that is the explanation," McNulty said. "We all know that if you hit the ball straight on to the green and have as few putts as possible, you're going to win the tournament. I mean that's logic. But everybody is going to hit rough at least once, twice, three or four times this week. It is how you manage yourself from there that counts."

The secret of Montgomerie's round was not only that he was arrow straight, but that he was also sneakily long. The heat and humidity helped his ball to travel further, but who would have thought that he could cover the 466-yard 10th with a three-wood and a four-iron, for example? Likewise, would he have been expected to be able to reach the 13th with a three-wood and a seven-iron as it is more than 460 yards?

And what about the 16th and 17th holes, 441 yards and 480 yards respectively? Montgomerie used an eight-iron for his second on the 16th and a seven-iron for his second on the 17th. Never let it be said again that he is not a long hitter. Never let yourself be taken in by his protestations: "I am not Tiger Woods, I am Colin Montgomerie." Here this week he has been hitting the ball further than ever.

With play suspended at 11.51am, marshals directed spectators towards the clubhouse areas. Steve Forman, of Bethesda, refused to leave despite the dangers of lightning. "I've been here since 6.20 this morning," he said. "The only thing that is going to get me out of here is a hearse."

GARY CAMERON

Woods, silhouetted on the 9th fringe yesterday, battles back into contention in the second round at Bethesda

DETAILS FROM CONGRESSIONAL

United States unless stated * *amateur*

EARLY SCORES AFTER TWO ROUNDS

141: K Gibson 72, 69, S Dunlap 75, 66
144: C Parry (Aus) 70, 74
145: P Goydos 73, 72
148: R Black 76, 72 Lee Rinker 73, 75
150: G Nicklaus 73, 77
151: M Wiebe 71, 80
153: R Gilder 80, 73, F Lickliter 71, 82, P Mitchell (GB) 75, 78
159: B Tennyson 79, 80
Withdrawn: J Daly

COMPLETE FIRST-ROUND SCORES

65: C Montgomerie (GB)
66: H Sutton, S Stricker
67: M McNulty (Zim), T Lehman
68: H Kase (Japan), D Schreyer
69: J Sluman, J Leonard
70: M Brisky, C Perry, H Irwin, D Ogrin, * J Kribel, C Parry (Aus), L Mize, D White
71: S Cink, M Brooks, N Price (Zim), T Bjorn (Den), V Singh (Fiji), R Tway, S Hoch, P Teravainen, F Lickliter, M Wiebe, P Stewart, J M Olazábal (Sp), E Els (SA), L Mattiace, O Browne, F Nobilo (NZ), L Westwood (GB), S Appleby (Aus), J Morse, G Towne, R Wylie, S Adams
72: C Rose, G Waite (NZ), J McGovern, T Watson, L Roberts, J Cook, M Reid, F Zoeller, K Gibson, S Jones, P Azinger, N Faldo (GB), L Janzen, J Parnevik (Swe), B Faxon, E Fryatt (GB), R Cramer, J Ferenz
73: B Crenshaw, J Nicklaus, M Calcavecchia, M Hulbert, D Waldorf, F Funk, S Ames (Trin), R Cochran, J Haas, B Langer (Ger), P Goydos, S McRoy, J Mazza, Lee Rinker, G Nicklaus, R Mast, P J Cowan, M O'Meara, S McCarron, D Clarke (GB), J Maggert, R Butcher
74: S Hart, A Coltart (GB), J Estes, E Brito, W Porter, T Woods, C Pavin, L Nelson, D Trixler, T Tolles, J Furyk, D Duval, K Schall
75: D Hammond, K Green, F Couples, G Norman (Aus), D Love, P Mickelson, P McGinley (Ire), S Elkington (Aus), W Andrade, * C Wollmann, P Harrington (Ire), S Murphy, S Dunlap, T Kite, P Mitchell (GB), * T Noe, R Allenby (Aus), P Stankowski, B Hughes (Aus), J Green, P Parker, M Dawson
76: I Woosnam (GB), Larry Rinker, S Simpson, K Perry, * R Kearney, J Pillar, D Zinkon, R Black, D Stockton, R Hunter
77: L Silveira, M Bradley, D Forsman, R Bradley, M Clark, J Daly, G Kraft, C Smith, M Swartz, P Broadhurst (GB), M Sposa, A Aguilar
78: D Toms, G Sweatt, K Jones, G Robson, * J Semelsberger, K Altenhof, B Wayment
79: C Strange, J D Blake, E Humenik, M Ozaki (Japan), B Tennyson, R Russell (GB)
80: T Tryba, R Gunn, R Gilder, M Gogel
81: M Schiene
87: M Martin, A Morse

Woods answers doubters with birdie barrage

John Hopkins watches as the Masters champion roars back into contention

Tiger Woods in a corner is not a concept with which we are familiar. Tiger triumphs, Tiger mania, Tiger terrific. These are the sort of headlines that have been commonplace in the ten months since he turned professional. So, his 74 in the first round of the US Open was a shock.

Conventional wisdom is that, after a bogey, you must hit back with a birdie, that a bad round must be followed by a good one to demonstrate character and courage.

Woods has not experienced travails like this, though he had finished 67th in his previous event. He had won every major championship he had played as a professional.

How would the Masters champion react to being nine strokes behind Colin Montgomerie, the leader, and to the danger of missing the cut, which would mean the end of his chase for the grand slam?

'His ball behaved as if on a piece of string'

Like the champion he is, was the answer. Clad in a yellow shirt, he burst forth in the second round as if he could not wait to accept the challenge that he faced. Three birdies in five holes told their own story. Iron shots flew to within six feet of the flag on the 1st, six feet on the 2nd, three feet on the 5th and four feet on the 7th. His drive on the 6th was so long — well in excess of 300 yards — that he needed only an eight-iron to reach the green at a hole measuring 475 yards.

By then, he had repaired most of the previous day's damage. He was back to level par, well inside the predicted cut, and still had half a round during which to improve some more. He was on course for a 66, one stroke behind Montgomerie's record score of the first day.

However, whereas Montgomerie's round had been, according to Phil Mickelson, a playing partner, one of the finest displays of ball-striking that he had seen, Woods's comeback round was rugged, bursts of brilliance mixed with spells of ordinariness.

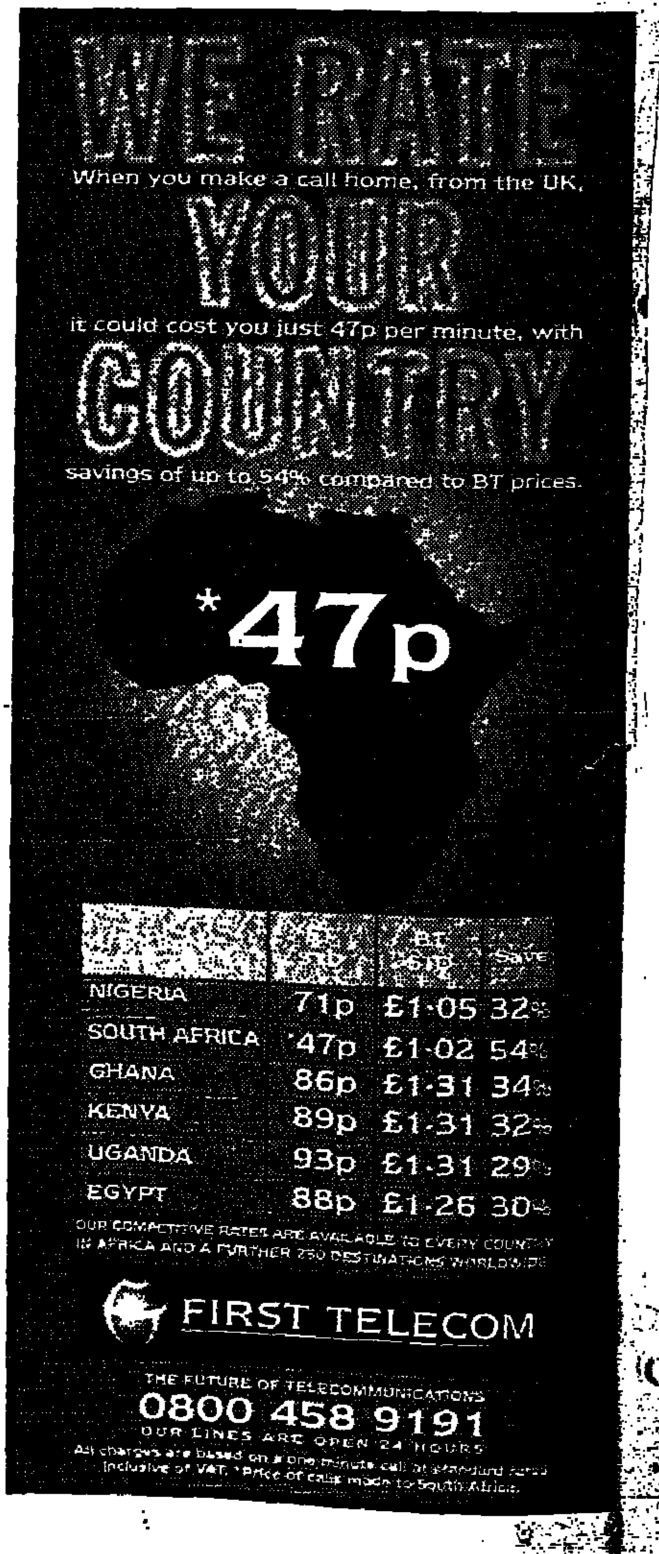
On the 9th and 11th, for example, he played poor strokes with a wedge, his ball ending at least 35 feet away. On the 13th, using an iron from the tee, he hit into the rough; on the 16th, again with a wedge, he chipped ten feet past the hole. He dropped shots at both holes.

There are no doubts that Woods has precocious talents, however. On the 10th, he demonstrated why his fellow professionals are in awe of him. His ball ended in a swale and the club that he used for his third stroke, which had to climb up a ridge to the edge of the green and almost come to a stop before gaining speed to roll down towards the flag, was a three-wood.

Tom Lehman and Steve Jones, his playing partners, could scarcely believe the evidence of their eyes. Woods's ball behaved as if it was on a piece of string and drawn by a hidden hand inside the hole. It stopped two feet from the hole.

It was a lot less noisy than at the start of his first round. There were the usual cries of "Nice shooting, Tiger" as if he was in a rifle range and "Good job", but the stampedes down the sides of the fairways had gone. Perhaps it was too early, for Woods had set out at 7.40am.

He was standing on the 17th tee when the threat of lightning caused play to be suspended.



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Troubled Sampras falls to Bjorkman

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

PETE SAMPRAS, the world No 1 and similarly seeded at the Stella Artois championships, was yesterday beaten in three sets by Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, so prolonging his recent sequence of poor results.

Previously a warm favourite to win his fourth Wimbledon men's singles title, Sampras appeared lethargic against Bjorkman's precise return of service. The American strolled to the first set, 6-3, but

Sampras: lethargic

Bjorkman quickly assumed command to shatter his opponent's aura of invincibility on grass and take the next two 6-3, 6-4. It was the Swede's first triumph over Sampras in five meetings.

Sampras seemed almost disinterested halfway through the second set, but Bjorkman — who, unlike many of his compatriots, favours an attacking game — believed his opponent was committed throughout. "He was fighting at the end," Bjorkman, 27, said. "He broke me back near the end of the last set. I'm sure he wanted to get further than the quarter-finals."

Sampras's record at Queen's Club is poor, but the defeat still suggested that he is well short of his best for Wimbledon. He has now gone seven tournaments without reaching a final. Bjorkman, ranked No 24 in the world and yet to win a Tour event, described his vanquished opponent as "one of the best players in history".

"I felt good when I was 4-2 up [in the third set], but I had been there before against Pete," he said. "This time I just tried to put my shots in and hope, maybe, he will make the mistakes." Bjorkman faces Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, in the semi-finals today, while Greg Rusedski, of Britain, meets Goran Ivanisevic, of Croatia. Rusedski is the first Briton to advance this far in the 18-year history of the tournament.

Rusedski triumphs, page 46

Cowdrey — first lord of Lord's

John Woodcock welcomes the ennobling of an exceptional ambassador for cricket

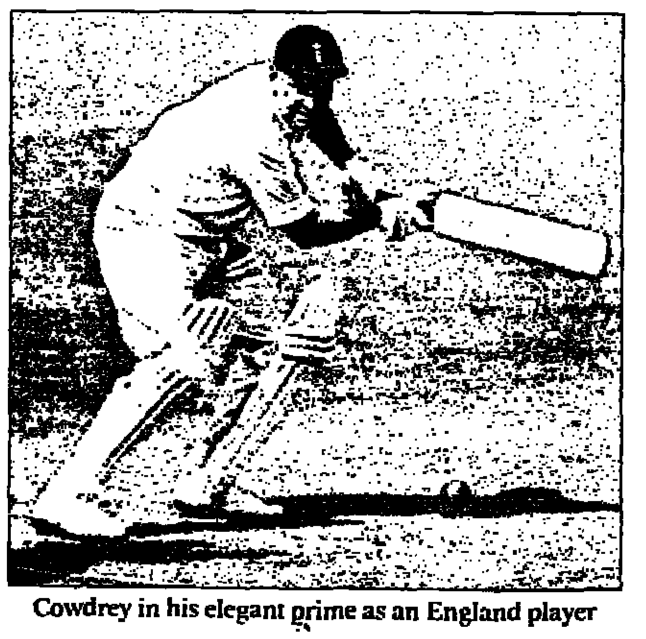
Cricket rejoices today in welcoming the first Lord of the "Green Circle", indeed the first Lord of Sport. That it should be Sir Colin Cowdrey is delightful. Having been knighted in 1992, for his legendary feats as a cricketer and his many other services to the game, his preferment now comes for the work he has put in more recently as chairman of the Downing Street Sporting Ambassadors project, aimed at rounding up and licking into shape the country's would-be sporting stars.

This is part sport, part education, and as a spokesman on the subject in the House of Lords, Cowdrey, a fine and well-tried speaker, will be heard with interest and respect. No one ever gave up his time more willingly to help more charitable causes, many of them quite unconnected with his responsibilities as president of the Lord's Taverners.

As chairman of the MCC cricket committee, Cowdrey's current crusade is to arrest the constant yakety-yaking that goes on round the bat and is becoming an increasingly irksome feature of the game at many levels. The strident, almost mandatory, seemingly gratuitous "well bowled Crofty" from England's close fielders or "that's the shot, Warnie" from Australia's to be heard clearly on television after almost every ball, is anathema to Cowdrey, a former chairman of the International Cricket Council. He himself was brought up on a very occasional but unmistakenly pithy "you lucky little so-and-so," from such demigods as Keith Miller, Ray Lindwall or Fred Trueman.

Of Test cricketers who have been knighted there are, including Cowdrey, ten, all of whom were honoured when their playing days were finishing or when they were over. The three famous West Indian "Ws", for example, are to be found in *Wisden* today as Sir Clyde Walcott, Sir Everton Weekes and Sir Frank Worrell. Worrell was dubbed when he was 40 (four years before he died), Walcott when he was 67 and Weekes when he was 70.

Sir Alec will be at the Test match at Lord's next week, as may Sir Richard and Sir Garfield: Alec Bedser, Richard Hadlee and Gary Sobers that is.



Cowdrey in his elegant prime as an England player

But for a games player of Colin Cowdrey's eminence to have been ennobled for what he has done for sport is, I think, unique. In the last century, the Lords Harris and Hawke both captained England; but theirs were hereditary titles. Lord Harris led England four times and Lord Hawke five. Lord Harris was a good enough batsman to score 33 and 36 against Australia at Melbourne and 52 against them at the Oval; Lord Hawke took two England sides to South Africa and reigned supreme over Yorkshire cricket for 40 years.

Like Cowdrey, Learie Constantine, another great cricketer, was first knighted and then raised to the peerage, but they were political honours. He became Sir Learie Constantine in 1962 as High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago in London and was created a life peer after being, at sometime or other, rector of St Andrews University, a member of the Race Relations Board and also of the Sports Council. Forty years ago this month Cowdrey helped Peter May add 411 for England's fourth wicket against West Indies at Edgbaston; this morning he is still there, batting for Britain.

Sport honoured, page 45
100 best cricketers, Magazine

هدية من الاهل

Black and white magic of swimming costumes
shopping · 3

THE TIMES
weekend

Challenge when father works away for a year
home life · 13

SATURDAY JUNE 14 1997

My years tracking the world's craftiest criminal

Adam Worth

How the Rodney King riots and the Waco siege led our correspondent Ben Macintyre (right) to the man who was Moriarty

PETER NICHOLLS

In 1992 I found myself in Los Angeles covering the grim aftermath of the Rodney King trial for *The Times*. One afternoon I drove to the headquarters of the Pinkerton's Detective Agency to explore its 19th-century archive and write a companion article about cops and robbers in a different, sepia-tinted age. The birthplace of American crime-fighting was also, I reckoned, about the safest place to be in a city still reeling from the riots.

The Pinkertons: the very name suggested gritty lawmen with comical facial hair and six-shooters. America's earliest detectives kept voluminous records. Here were details of the hunt for Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Jesse James, the Reno Gang; the best baddies of American folklore.

Here, too, as I picked up a *stray newspaper clipping from* 1902 was a *name new* to me, though the claims made by the writer were extravagant in the extreme: "Adam Worth, Greatest Thief of Modern Times; Stole $3,000,000", read the headlines. "This is the story of dam Worth. If a fiction writer uld conceive such a story, he ight well hesitate to write it r fear of being accused of sing the wildly improbable. he sober, cold technical judgent passed upon Adam Worth the greatest thief-hunters of merica and Great Britain is at he was the most remarkle, most successful and most ngerous professional crimi- ever known."

hat ragged piece of fading wsprint led me to another rner of the archive, where I und *six* chronological folders belled "Worth", tied together with string and bulging with photographs, letters, news clips and hundreds of memos by the Pinkerton detectives, each one written in meticulous copperplate. The tale they told was astonishing: of a German-born American Jew who faked his own death in the Civil War, cleared a Boston bank of $500,000, fled to Europe with a musical safe-opener called "Piano" Charley and a beautiful moll named Kitty Flynn; of a man who settled in Mayfair in the heart of Victorian London and ran a vast criminal network from Constantinople to San Francisco to Cape Town, while he lived the life of a rich Victorian gentleman complete with racehorses, yachts and lavish apartments; of a man who by day was virtue personified and by night was the blackest of sinners.

The Worth files told another, parallel story, of the portrait of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, painted by Thomas Gainsborough about 1785, stolen by Worth in 1876 and kept by the crook in a false-bottomed trunk, a talisman of his villainy as he travelled the world for a quarter-century on his odyssey of theft, forgery and fraud.

The painting had led a most colourful existence even before the theft: it had vanished mysteriously at the end of the 18th century and then reappeared, with the legs amputated, in the cottage of a retired English schoolmistress in 1841, before being sold for 10,100 guineas in 1876, then the highest price ever paid for a painting, just two weeks before Worth filched it.

Worth was too clever to have written anything so revealing as a memoir, but in 1893, nearing the end of his criminal career, he had contacted William Pinkerton, arguably the greatest of America's gum-shoe breed, and furnished a full account of his crimes, explaining that the time had come at last to surrender the Gainsborough. Pinkerton kept a verbatim report of the interview.

Reading Worth's 16-page confession exactly a century later, I could almost feel Worth's strange fixation with his stolen painting burning through the stained pages. "The Lady must go home," he told the detective. The Gainsborough portrait was Worth's obsession. He was now mine.

Dazed, elated and tantalised, I emerged from the archive. The Pinkertons' evidence was vast yet incomplete. The gaps showed just how elusive Worth had been during his life of crime; in death, as I would discover over the next four years, he was just as slippery. According to Pinkerton, Worth had been brought up in Boston and joined a New York regiment of the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil War. A call to the National Archives in Washington quickly ascertained that one Adam Worth, of the right age and correct regiment, had indeed fought, and officially died, for the Union. Worth's first recorded crime was as a "bounty-jumper", making a handsome living by repeatedly enlisting, accepting a cash payment for doing so and then deserting. His "death" at the Battle of Bull Run in 1862 was only the first of a series of disappearing acts.

At the end of the war he drifted to New York and there the scent grew stronger. The New York public library and the NYPD archives furnished numerous contemporary accounts of his crimes and those of his shady colleagues, including the glamorous "Piano" Charley Bullard the sinister safe-expert, "Haron" Max Shinburn and Fredericka "Marm" Mandelbaum, New York's most famous, and fattest, fence.

My every free moment was now spent hunting Worth's remains. I visited the site of Sing Sing jail, where he was briefly incarcerated before escaping again, and walked the streets of Manhattan's "Bowery" where he held court with his underworld crew. Then I went to New Jersey, where Patterson Smith, the world's foremost crime-bibliophile has a house crammed to the rafters with crime books, ancient and modern. "Worth was the model

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING .... 2,3 | GARDENING .... 4-6 | PROPERTY .... 7-11 | FEATURES .... 12 | HOME LIFE .... 13 | COUNTRY LIFE ...... 14 | TRAVEL .... 15-24 | GAMES 25

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Anyone for bowls?

Once the preserve of grandmothers and maiden aunts, fruit bowls have shaken off their stuffy image to become the centre of attention. Pile them full of luscious summer fruits for maximum effect, says Caroline Griffiths

1 Fruit Mama, £105, by Alessi from The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)

2 Schlanser large glass bowl, £120, *from* Dickins & Jones, 224-244 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 7070).

3 Cenedese blue bowl, £320 from Dickins & Jones, as before.

4 Wave bowl, £215, from Liberty, 214-220 Regent Street, W1 (0171-734 1234).

5 Twisted stem fruit bowl, £175, by Ben Dunington from Liberty, as before.

6 Stepped fruit bowl, £59, by Stephen Newell from Newell Glass (0171-272 9341).

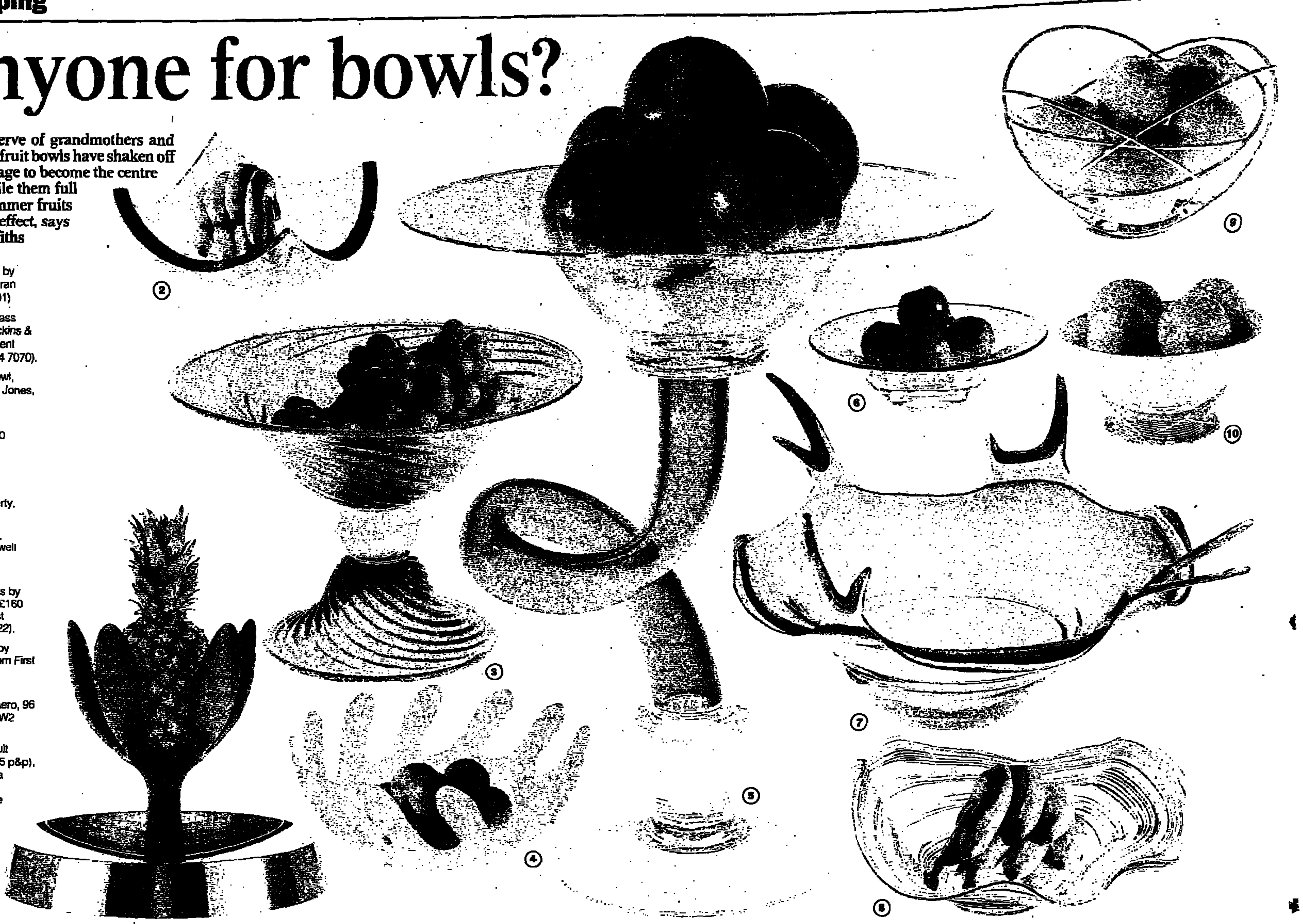
7 Wave bowl with fins by Albert Tatlock, from £160 (plus p&p), from First Glass (0171-622 3322).

8 Large ripple bowl by Bob Crooks, £94, from First Glass as before.

9 Pierson's wire fruit bowl, £37.95, from Aero, 96 Westbourne Grove, W2 (0181-871 4030).

10 *Royal Salingor fruit* bowl, £89.95 (plus £5 p&p), from Bettie Blue, 30a Park Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire (0161-929 6676).

Photographs by **DES JENSON**



Continued from page 1

for Professor Moriarty in the Sherlock Holmes stories, you know," said the encyclopaedic Mr Smith, *opening up* another rich seam. So I looked up the *passage* featuring Moriarty in *The Final Problem*, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle:

"He is the Napoleon of Crime, Watson. He is the organiser of half that is evil and of nearly all that is undetected in this great city ... He sits *motionless, like a spider at the* centre of its web, but that web has a thousand *radiations*, and he knows well every quiver of each of them ..."

Improbably enough, it was Worth's grandson who founded Pan American Airlines. The older generation of that family, Boston Brahmins of considerable wealth, were not one *bit amused to be told that their* forebear was a notorious bank *robber, but the younger* members were, and they had the crucial family portraits.

A holiday I took back in London became a hunt for fresh clues. Scotland Yard was enormously unhelpful. The *Pinkerton's files contained numerous* letters from the British detectives, but in the Yard's archives not a trace of Adam Worth, or Henry Raymond, his alias, remained. "We can't keep everything, dear. Been burnt, I expect," the Scotland Yard archivist explained.

Luckily, before the pyromaniac keepers of our cultural *heritage had got to work, an* American biographer of the Pinkerton dynasty had gained access to the British Worth title, leaving behind invaluable notes. Lloyd's shipping register soon identified his yacht, the *Shamrock*, a sleek 110ft beauty which, according to newspapers in the British Museum, had subsequently been *sold to* an English peer. I telephoned the peer's direct *descendant: "Oh yes," said his* lordship, "we have an oil painting of it somewhere."

> 'Worth and I became sparring partners. But the facts of his existence became an adjunct to my own. I loathed him, wishing the ruthless little prig had got his comeuppance'

I dragged my wife to 198 Piccadilly (now a branch of the *Bradford & Bingley Building* Society), Worth's operational HQ near Fortnum and Mason; then to his home off Clapham Common; then to the house where he died, penniless, in Camden; then to the unmarked grave in Highgate where he lies. She did not complain or if she did, in my one-track state, I did not hear.

While tailing Worth, I also set off in pursuit of Georgiana, *his painted duchess.* The archives of Agnew's art gallery, into which Worth had broken on the night of May 25, 1876, in order, as he put it, to "elope" with Gainsborough's great painting, were packed with unexpected pearls: fragments of the canvas edge Worth had *cut off and sent to the art* dealer to prove he had taken it; a series of ransom notes in the criminal's hand, ending abruptly when he decided he could not part with the stolen treasure; dozens of letters from cranks and crooks claiming to have discovered the lost work by *telepathic means* or *offering* to return it for vast sums.

The sale of the painting had caused a sensation. The theft provoked another. The image of the duchess was reproduced on plates, biscuit tins and cheap prints, in marble busts and as a seaside amusement, with the *face cut out, so that holiday*makers could peer through to have their photograph taken for a shilling. To my collection of Worthiana was now added a fast-growing stock of Georgiana-ana.

After a year of sleuthing, I had assembled a daunting mass of material. I had not yet, however, written a single word about the life of Worth.

That opportunity was provided by David Koresh, a mad messianic cult leader who holed himself up in a compound in Waco, Texas, with about 70 followers and an enormous arsenal of weapons.

The six-week siege, at Waco, *Texas, to which I was dis*patched, was one of the biggest *news stories of the decade, but* as the standoff dragged on the interest of the news desk waned, as did the attractions of the Doctor Pepper Museum, *Linda's Happy Time Tavern* and McDonald's. By day *we waited, sweatily, outside* the cult compound. Trapped in the Day's Inn beside the Highway, night after night, enough sheer boredom set in to dismantle even my monumental writer's block.

I suspect most biographers develop an ambivalent, partially antagonistic relationship *with their subjects.* Worth and I became sparring partners. *His life was in my hands;* but the facts of his existence became, in some way, an adjunct to my own.

At times I loathed him, wishing the ruthless little prig had got his comeuppance, and wondering how I had fallen in with such detestable company. At others his hypocrisy seemed almost heroic. I found *a character far more subtle*, supple and complicated than merely that of an efficient thief. Worth did only bad, but in his warped Victorian psychology he clearly thought himself a good, even a virtuous man.

His relationship with the Gainsborough painting over *25 years was an emblem of his* moral duality, at once his *greatest prize and proof of his* exclusion from the civilised society it represented. Worth held his minions in thrall. I feared I had become one.

Soon, I began boring complete strangers on aeroplanes with his tale. *I scoured antiques fairs for* more examples of the spread *of the Gainsborough image.* I pinned an enlarged reproduction of the portrait on the bedroom wall. My wife said it was chocolate-boxy and unsettling. I took it down.

As I tried to re-spin the web of Worth's life, its thousand radiations seemed to grow ever more intricate and fantastic. A *chance conversation* with an authority on Henry James revealed that part of the story of the picture — its eventual sale to the American millionaire John Pierpont Morgan — had become the basis for James's last (and possibly worst) novel, *The Outcry.* Yet more oddly, a novelist named Rosamund de *Zeer Marshall had turned* parts of the story into a bodice-ripping romp in 1945. A year later it was made into a film starring Paulette Goddard.

At the end of 1995, with the book all but completed and my stint in New York over, we moved to France and I prepared nervously to dispatch *the manuscript to publishers.* As I write from the Paris office *of The Times, I can see across* the Place de l'Opéra to the Grand Hôtel, where Worth ran an illegal gambling den in the 1870s.

I am still unsure whether I have been tailing Worth all this time, or whether he is shadowing me.

- The Napoleon of Crime: The Life and Times of Adam Worth, *by Ben Macintyre (HarperCollins) is published on June 19.* Times *readers can order it for £15 (a saving of £3 on the publisher's RRP of £18) by calling* The Times *Bookshop on 0990 134459.*
- *The film rights to the book have been optioned by Steven Spielberg's company DreamWorks SKG.*

GAINSBOROUGH'S DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE COMES **FULL CIRCLE**

11th Duke of Devonshire
Today the "Duchess" *is displayed on an easel* at Chatsworth. After two centuries she is in her rightful place at last

5th Duke of Devonshire
He was thought to have disposed of the portrait in 1791, when Georgiana fell pregnant to her lover, Charles Grey.

***Charles* Boothby Clopton**
Was Boothby Clopton, a social climber nicknamed "The Prince", *the next owner? A close* friend of the Devonshires, he committed suicide in 1800...

Sir Brooke Boothby
... Or was it Sir Brooke? The poet, scholar and art collector lived at Ashbourne Hall, 20 miles *from Chatsworth. He hit* hard times in 1792 and had to sell many of his possessions

Anne Maginnis
No one knows how the "Duchess" ended up in the cottage of this retired schoolmistress.
In 1841, she sold the painting to the London art dealer John Bentley for *56 guineas (£1,945 today)*

John Bentley
The actual price was thought to be far higher, but the rumour circulated that Bentley sold the painting on to the silk merchant and MP Wynn Ellis for about *60 guineas* (£2,188)

Wynn Ellis
In 1875 Ellis died. On May 6, 1876, the "Duchess" went up for sale with the auction house Christie, Manson & Woods. *She was sold to the art* dealer William Agnew for 10,100 guineas (£414,443)

William Agnew
The art dealer proudly displayed the painting in his gallery at 39 Old Bond Street. On May 25, 1876. Adam Worth broke in *through a window with two* of his gang, stole it and carried it around the world

Adam Worth
In 1901, after 25 years, Worth finally returned the painting. Morland Agnew, the son of William Agnew, went to America to bring *it back to England*

Morland Agnew
Shortly afterwards, Agnew sold the painting for £30,000 (£1,613,440) to the American millionaire and art connoisseur John *Pierpont Morgan*

John Pierpont Morgan and his last surviving grandchild, **Mabel Satterlee Ingalls.**
The painting stayed in the family until she died in 1993. In 1994 it returned to England again and was sold at Sotheby's to the present duke, *under the* auspices of the Chatsworth House Trust, for £265,500

Above: **Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire**
by Thomas Gainsborough

Around 1785 Gainsborough painted this celebrated portrait of the famous Duchess, stolen by *Adam Worth in 1876. Whether on completion the* painting ever actually hung in the ducal home of Chatsworth is unrecorded. But the story of how it finally took up residence there in 1994 spans over 200 years of intrigue, mystery and crime. To follow it yourself, start with the 5th Duke (top) and work your way clockwise around the page.

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صفحة ١٥ من الاصل

Tune in to a black & white set

Classic monochrome swimsuits – bikini and one-piece – are back with graphics, stripes and checks, says **Heath Brown**

Black and white magic has cast its spell once again, this time on swimwear. From designer ranges to high-street stores the tide is turning on ultra-bright florals and tropical designs. The classic black and white swimsuit is back.

"Prints and colours come and go but there is nothing more flattering than black and white," says Lou Madge, the swimwear buyer at Fenwicks. "This season there are fewer florals and lots of graphic stripes, zigzags and checks."

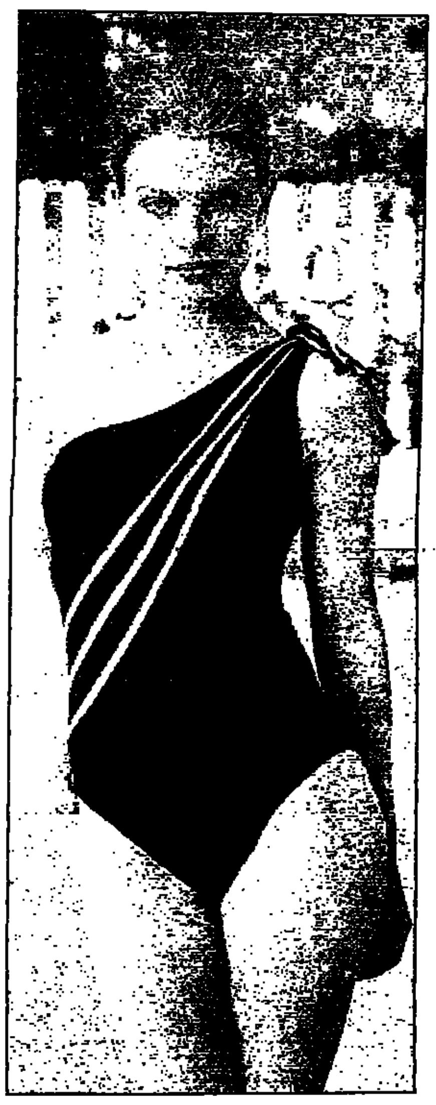
Because monochrome is so flattering, any body shape will look good in one. If you have a regular, pear-shaped figure, a one-piece with a plain, black bottom and patterned top will detract attention from a large bottom, or if you have a large chest, the reverse effect can help. There are swimsuits specifically designed to enhance or minimise the bust with underwiring or seamed Lycra panelling. Gottex even has a range which includes a bra within the costume.

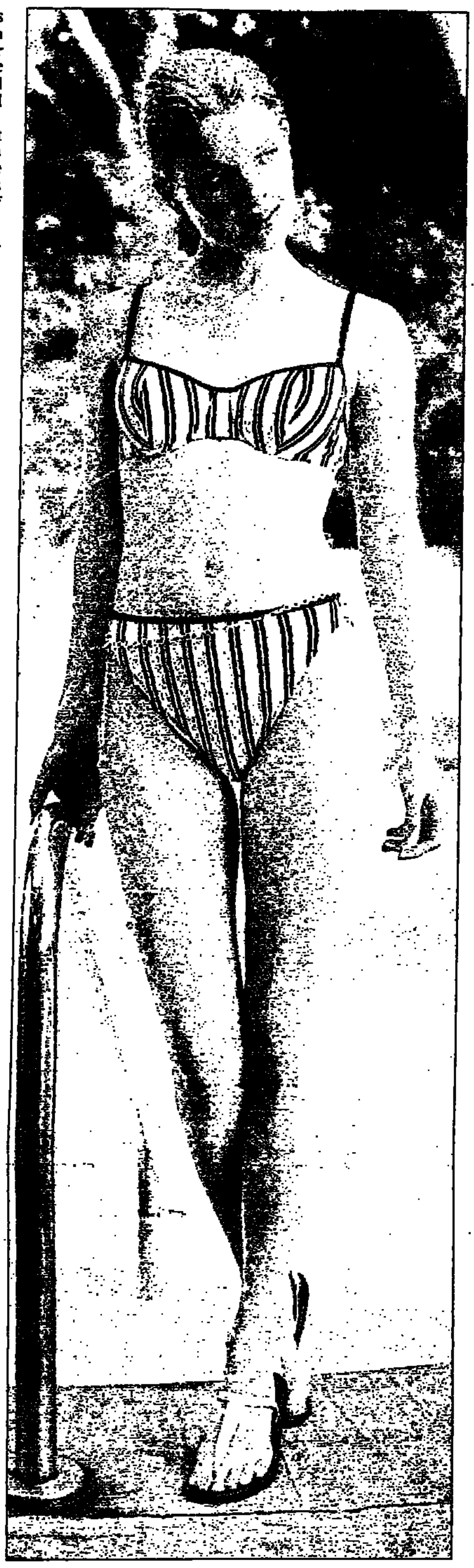
To create an hourglass shape, wear a halterneck costume with a cut-out waistline or slashes, or go for a bikini in a bold black-and-white stripe or graphic pattern.

Baywatch-style high-cut costumes cut above the hip-line can look tacky on a leggy blonde but on small frames they add a sense of length to shorter legs.

If you are skinny, you will look more shapely in horizontal or all-over striping. Here, too, a high-cut swimsuit is recommended because bare, bony hips are better than covered ones.

The style for this summer, however, is the asymmetric one shoulder, one-piece swimsuit. A diagonal stripe across the chest can divert attention from very broad shoulders, but beware of an uneven asymmetrical tan.





FAR LEFT: Asymmetric tie-effect top suit, £99, Gideon Oberson, available at Fenwicks, Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 9161)

LEFT: Stripe bikini, £24.99, Hennes Beach Wear (0171-255 2031). White thong sandals, £15, Warehouse (0171-278 3491)

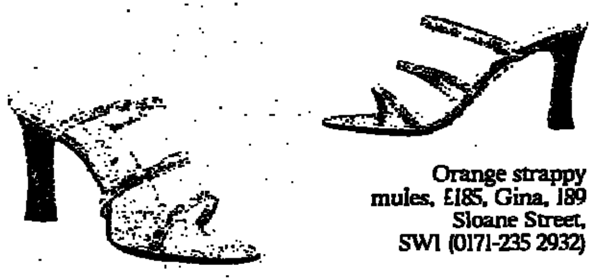
ABOVE: Check fine-strap suit, £42.50, Slix, available at Fenwick, Bond Street, W1, and John Lewis, Oxford Street, W1 (0181-450 3066)

TOP RIGHT: Computer-print strapless suit £110, Gottex, Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Stockists, 0171-584 2427

Photographs by **Richard Burns**
Hair and make-up by **Sally Kvalheim**
for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774)
Location: Château Marmont Hotel, Hollywood, Los Angeles

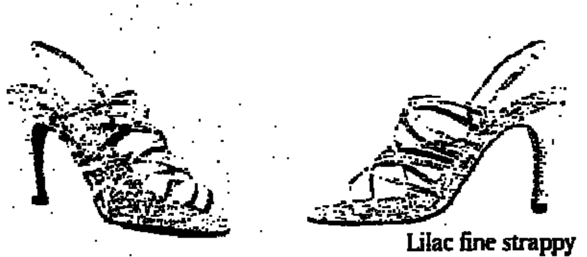
THREE OF A KIND

SANDALS make a comeback this summer in updated versions that are cool and comfortable. Here are three of the best around. H.B.



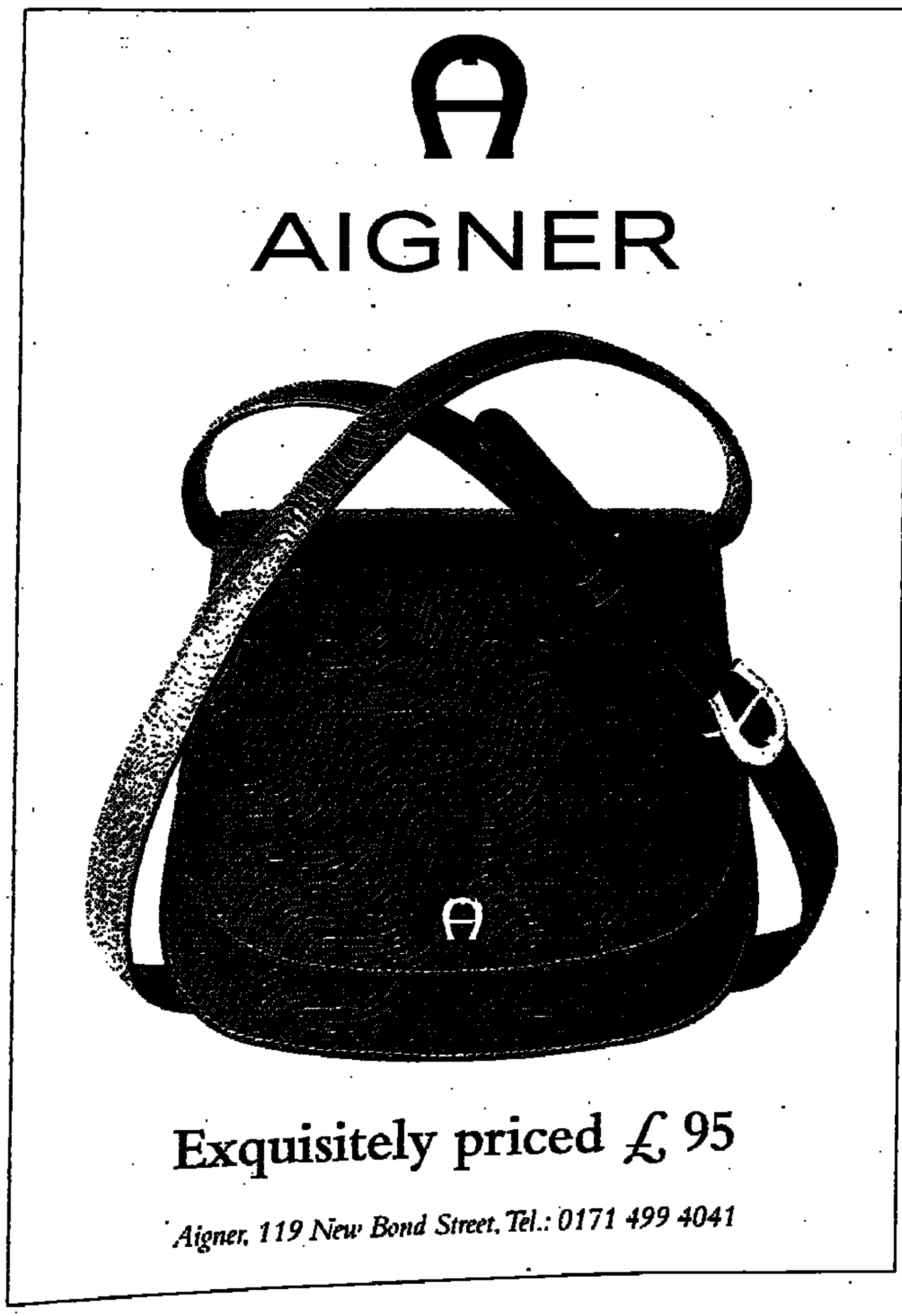
Orange strappy mules, £185, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

Blue suede strappy sandals, £69, Carvela, Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-546 1888)



Lilac fine strappy sandals £24.99, Ravel, 184-188 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-631 0224)

Photographs **Des Jenson**



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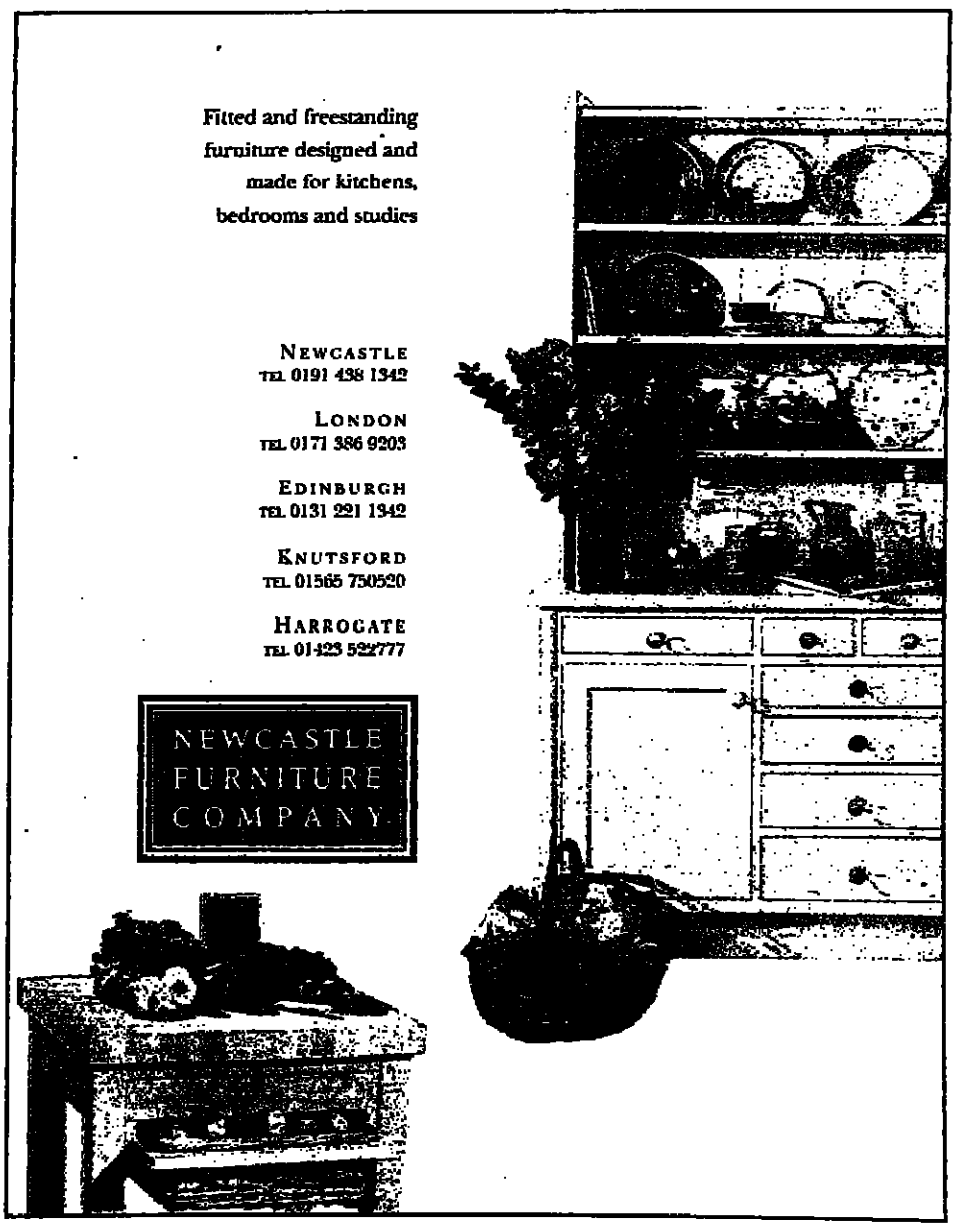

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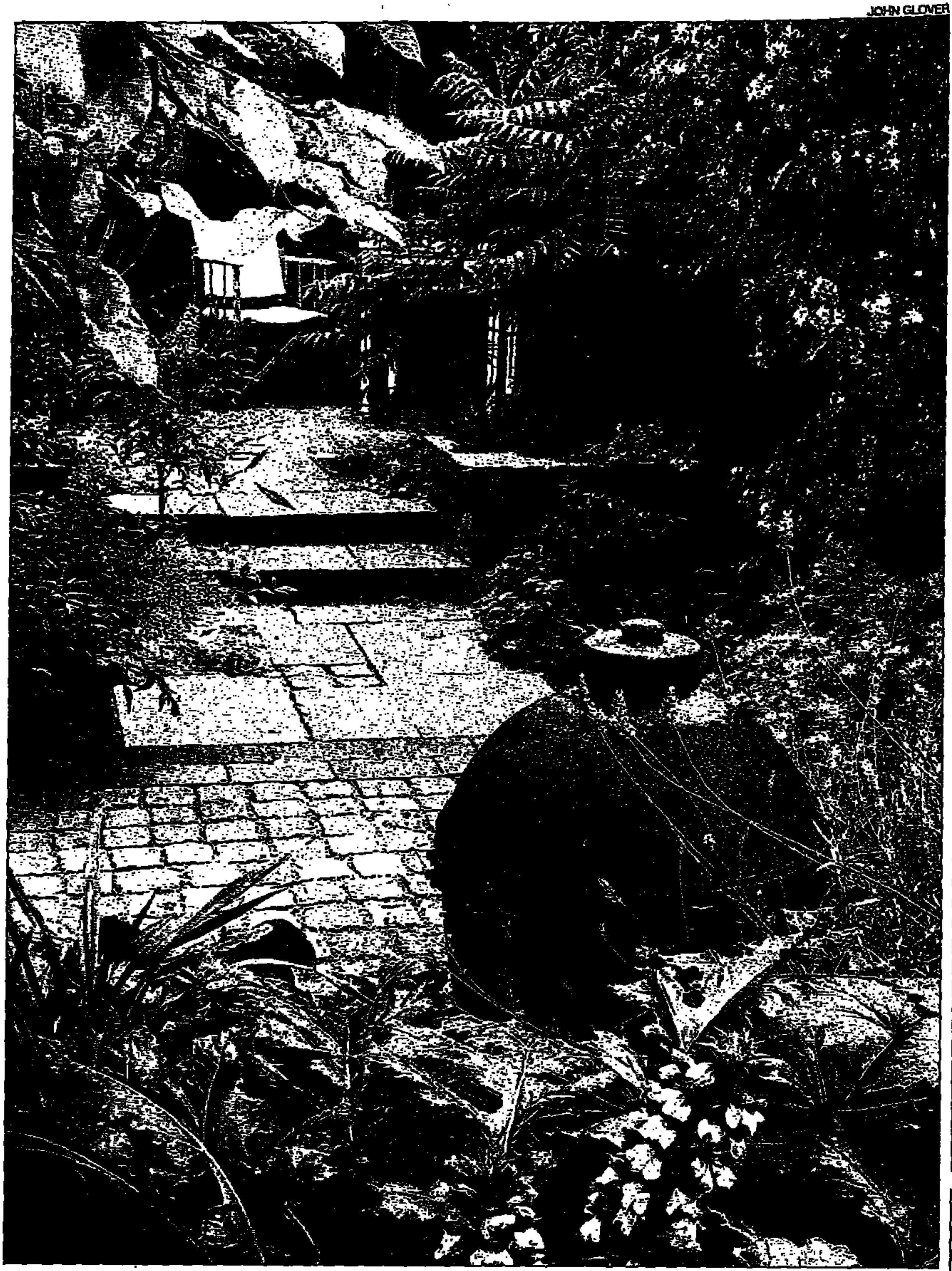
Lawns: Stephen Anderton asks if we need them; **Barbara Abbs** on creating one

CLIVE NICHOLLS

Box hedges with brick area and wooden arbour

JOHN GLOVER



Town house garden with a silver-green themed planting and Japanese-style barbecue, designed by Barbara Hunt

Why not cut out grass?

"Couldn't we just manage without a lawn altogether?" ask some people who have little time to look after the grass, particularly *through a dry summer.*

Well, *I know that in drought* years it's barely green, and in wet years it's a chore to cut. But a lawn — grass at least — is what vacant land reverts to in Britain if left to its own devices. It is *nature's default mode.* So it has to be a brave, conscious decision to get rid of it altogether. Sometimes, however, that's the best decision.

In very small gardens and urban courtyards, the wear and tear of feet would rapidly *reduce* even a shade-tolerant grass mixture to a compacted mess. Also, a tiny patch of lawn can look uncomfortably like a desperate measure — and no one wants a garden to look in any way desperate.

There are *other* benefits in *not having a lawn. For the* sake of a few square yards of grass, who wants the noise of even an electric mower? In a *small garden, why give up* growing space to a shed for a mower, when a trowel and fork in the broom cupboard would otherwise be enough? *What do you do with the grass clippings? And how do you stop them treading indoors* when it's wet?

More importantly, replacing grass with paving or gravel makes a small garden look bigger. Plants can flop more generously over the paving without playing Chicken to passing lawnmowers. And, because small town gardens generally sit in the shadow of buildings, the more lush you make the planting the more you can pretend to be relaxing a *thousand miles up the Amazon. Taking tea under 8ft* gunnera leaves in a town garden is delightfully absurd, with or without the pre-recorded cicadas and tree-frogs, and big foliage in small spaces really does work wonders.

But *you* have to be clear about what replacing a lawn entails. Well-laid paving can be almost maintenance-free, so long as it is not so shaded that it becomes slippery. And paving is expensive. Gravel, on the other hand, is a notorious *seedbed for weeds and, in* shady places, *for moss. You* could, of course, make a stylish gravel, moss and bamboo garden, but you might need weedkillers to maintain it. (paraquat is relatively harmless to mosses).

In larger, more open, or *rural gardens, replacing lawn* with a hard surface becomes less easy. Grass is much the cheapest surface to lay over a large area and, in any case, to cover the same area with a sheet of paving could easily *make your* garden resemble a civic centre.

Garden with black and red path and sunken bed

Gravel, or gravel with a little paving, is the most satisfactory option in large sunny spaces. It tends to be accompanied by Mediterranean plantings of sun-worshipping plants, which satisfies natural *logic: if an open space remains* dry and gravelly, the chances are it is hot.

In her garden at Colchester, Essex, Beth Chatto has turned a car parking *space into* a gravel "river bed" *bordered by areas of* drought-tolerant plants, which taper gradually down into the gravel itself. There are sedums and euphorbias, origanums, crambe, grasses and sea-hollies, all of which revel in her pitifully dry climate.

But *would* that look as happy in Oban, or Aberystwyth, where the rainfall is many times heavier? Probably not. There, more than ever, the vernacular surface of open space is grass. But why are we supposed to feel so bad about grass these days? All right, so it's fairly labour-intensive (our problem) and uses non-politically correct fossil fuels to cut it *(the world's problem). It can be criti*cised as perverse or even futile to spend so much time chopping the tops off grasses. But where water is moderately plentiful, grass *is* the logical *surface* to lay for large, open areas.

This does not mean that people in the wetter west are denied modern designer gardens. Grass, just *as much as gravel, can be as cleverly used to great effect,* and it comes as no surprise to find that the architect Charles Jenks's extraordinary garden of sculptured turf banks is in drizzly Dumfriesshire, or that Graeme Moore, who designs patterned grass parterres, lives in nearby Lanarkshire.

> 'Paving or gravel makes a garden look bigger'

Grass does not have to be so terribly labour intensive, so long as we learn to relax about *it* a *little: to forget the* quest for a plain emerald carpet which shows up every speck of vegetable fluff, and to settle for grass with a *fine pattern of turf weeds, but* which is none the less an expansive foil for flower gardening. The trouble is, just now, the moral high ground is with *gravel. Words say it all. In some eyes, "lawn" is for fascist* mower-lovers shooting weedkiller from the hip; "turf" is for arty sculptors and the well-heeled; "meadow" is for romantics, and plain "grass . ." well, it is urgently in need of rehabilitation as it has become so unfashionable.

With a modicum of *laissez-faire*, however, you can have an attractive green garden *floor* in almost any part of Britain *for* the price of a lawnmower. It's soft to walk on, soft to lie on and to play on. It's more hopeful, too, than a view of gravel in the dark days of winter. And, miraculously, it recovers from all but the cruellest drought, even *without* watering.

Grass in Britain, as *someone* once said, grows in spite of what you do to it, not because of what you do to it.

● *Designers known for their grass-free gardens include Jill Billington, 100 Fox Lane, London N13 4AX; Barbara Hunt, 91 Church Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4XS; and John Brookes, Clock House, Denmans, Fontwell, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0SU.*

Long live the great British lawn

The British *lawn is not a recent fad, born with the 20th-century* suburb. Turf for lawns was being sold in 13th-century London and in 1260 Albertus Magnus, in one of the first gardening books, was giving advice on how to produce a *lawn that was "like a green cloth".* Illustrations from the *period show* workmen levelling bowling greens to a standard that would pass muster today. No wonder we are so deeply attached to our lawns and outraged *when a water company suggests* that *we should concrete them over.*

Although the popularity of the lawn has taken a knock or two in recent years — pebbles, flowering meadows or hard surfaces are seen as more labour-saving and unaffected by *drought — there is still nothing* to touch "grass kept fine and close". It refreshes the eye, frames the flower borders and provides a perfect surface for games, toddlers and al fresco meals.

Considerations such as *these* led Annabel and Matthew *Streets to create a back lawn at their home* in Fulham, west London, instead of resorting to maintenance-free paving slabs, a common choice for first-time garden owners who work long hours.

The Streets' small lawn was laid two years ago to replace an area of weeds and moss *surrounding* a *decrepit pear tree. Because it was well into summer* before work could begin, laying turf was the only option. Although expensive, turf can be laid at any time, provided it can be watered regularly, and the lawn used immediately.

Contractors cleared, fertilised and levelled the ground before top-quality turf was laid and rolled. Luckily there *were no hosepipe bans in Fulham that summer,* so late evening sprinkling was possible.

An alternative and much cheaper method is to sow seed, but this must be done in moist conditions in spring or autumn. The newly germinated grass cannot be walked on and cutting has to be done with care. The *advantage of seeding is that there is a* seed *mixture* for every soil type or style of lawn: tough or fine, shady or sunny. There is even one called Lazy Lawn, which guarantees 50 per cent less mowing. A mixture that includes a *deep-rooted rye* will cope with *drought better than older varieties.* Today's family lawn mixtures contain fine leafed, dwarf ryes that are wear-tolerant and quick to establish.

Whether you seed or lay turf, thorough preparation of the ground is essential. *Remove large stones and perennial weeds and add a layer of* between 20cm (8in) and 30cm (12in) of good quality topsoil, with well-rotted organic material incorporated. With dry springs and summers, the deeper *the topsoil and the greater the* amount of *organic matter* the better. You cannot get a good lawn, even with expensive turf, if it is laid over a mixture of builder's rubble and badly drained subsoil.

Already the Streets have learnt *some useful lessons.* After two years of *mowing, they wish they had* chosen *a simple rectangular shape* that would have been quicker to cut, and they would recommend a strip of brick or stone edging to avoid the chore of trimming.

The grass looks green and luxuriant but dandelions and daisies have appeared, and drought and hosepipe *bans seem imminent. They need to do more now than just mow regularly,* but fortunately for them lawn care is big business.

Scientists are constantly working to make the creation of a velvet lawn easy and inevitable. No more pounding, scything or pouring boiling water over recalcitrant dandelions. There are rollers and aerators, mowers *and scarifiers and a host of* chemicals to make it easier to achieve the perfect sward. At the same time, the plethora of products is bewildering. There are many products to get rid of weeds and moss and the most widely available brands are effective.

PETER TRIEVNOR

Matthew and Annabel Streets decided a lawn was a *must and laid turf*

For gardeners like the Streets who have little time, Levington Gold Evergreen 4-in-1 Lawn Treatment contains weed and moss-killer plus quick and slow-release fertilisers. *One application* works all year. If there is time, perennial weeds such as dandelions, daisies and plantains can be dug out by hand, while annual weeds and coarse grasses are controlled by regular mowing.

If the season is dry, leave the grass fairly long, and cut little and often. Clippings can be left on the lawn as a *mulch.*

The *Streets are lucky. Their lawn is* sufficiently established for the turfs to have knitted and rooted into the topsoil, but not old enough to have used up all the nutrients, or for the soil to have become impacted.

Older lawns need regular feeding, annual spiking to allow air to the roots and raking to remove moss and other debris, and can be dramatically improved by adopting the practice of professional greenkeepers and groundsmen who regularly *"overseed" their turf. Lawn restoration* packs containing seed and fertiliser are widely available and are useful for repairing small bare patches as well.

First, the lawn should be scarified, using a mechanical scarifier or a spring-tined rake, debris removed and bare soil roughed up. Scatter the seed, rake the area again and then roll or *tread* the seed in lightly. *If a* long showery period is *forecast, you* can overseed through the summer until mid-October. If the weather remains dry, the overseeded area will need watering daily. Grass that has suffered nearly always revives with the first rains, but that does not solve the problem of the summer-long brown lawn that looks like an African savannah. There is an answer: the enzyme that destroys chlorophyll in grasses and causes them to become brown has been identified and a *new* "green" *gene patented.*

By the *Millennium,* grass which remains green regardless of weather conditions, should be commercially available. Do not dig up the lawn yet.

● *British Seed Houses lawn seed is available from garden centres and includes mixtures for luxury, family, lazy, shaded and meadow lawns. Lawn restorer kits are sold with or without ryegrass.*

● *Levington Gold Evergreen 4-in-1 Lawn Treatment is widely available.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- ■ Make successive sowings of beetroot, turnips and runner beans. Watch for slug damage.
- ■ Sow more parsley for late summer/autumn cropping.
- ■ Keep strawberries and cane fruits well supplied with water. *Extra water will also help swell early potatoes.*
- ■ *Potted indoor azaleas can* now be plunged outdoors in half shade. Water well after planting, in and around the pot, and remember to keep them moist over the summer.
- ■ Watch for mildew on plants such as acanthus, bergamot, asters, honeysuckle and roses — and spray.
- ■ Divide older clumps of bearded irises after flowering, replanting the strongest rhizomes in newly enriched soil. The rhizome should be just on the surface.

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q At the end of March I planted a *Forsythia* 'Minigold' in a well-enriched hole and watered it with liquid fertiliser. After a week some leaves shrivelled and turned brown. I took this to be frost damage, and gave it some protection until the weather warmed up. The damage got worse and I went back to the nursery, *only to find it* had *the same problem.* Is this variety especially susceptible to frost, and should I plant a different one? New leaves are now beginning to break out lower down.
— H.J. Bache, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

A Relax. The plants had probably been forced into growth too early, before the nursery bought them in. Nursery *stock overwintered* in polythene tunnels can become too advanced for its own good. It is forsythia's flowers, not leaves, which are frost-resistant. *At least your plant is alive,* and there *should be no trouble* next *year.* Another lesson here is not to give liquid feed too early in the year, since if it is accompanied by a sudden warm spell it can induce precocious growth before the frosts have gone. *Liquid* feeds are for summer, when growth is active. 'Minigold' is a form of *Forsythia ovata*, a Korean species of more compact and smaller habit than the common forsythias, such as 'Lynwood Variety' and *F. suspensa.* It should only reach 5ft-7ft. But the mini-ness refers to the size of the flowers. F. viridissima 'Bronxensis' is under 4ft, but needs heat to flower well.

Q *Last autumn* I planted 50 lily of the valley corms, bought from a reputable grower. The plants reached their proper height and have clearly enjoyed being nurtured in compost, but the leaves are beginning to subside — *and they have not produced* any flowers.
— L. Davidson, London W1.

A *You say "compost". Are they in pots?* My experience of lily of the valley is that it is slow to settle down to flowering from the purchased "pips", and dislikes wet, peaty composts. *Plant them out in your garden,* in ordinary garden soil, in part shade, with some lime added (they seem happiest on limey soil) and see what happens next year. Once they have settled down to flowering, you could lift and pot a few pips in autumn, in a soil-based compost or leafmould.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

NATIONAL TRUST

The pool at Knightshayes Court with its geometric hedges

Garden rooms with a view

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

■ Knightshayes, Tiverton Devon (01884 253264).

Two miles N of Tiverton. Open daily 11am-5.30pm until Nov 2. £3.30, children £1.60. National Trust members free.

Recent changes give better views of the parkland as you arrive and hide the formal gardens, making them a delightful surprise as you round the corner of the Victorian sandstone house. The 12-acre formal garden is on a steeply *sloping* site below the house with exquisite views across the countryside. Terraces are planted with tree peonies, roses and herbaceous plants which step down to a pool and fountain, while a wide sweep *of lawn continues the journey* down the hill.

This garden melds into a 30-acre woodland with magnolias, azaleas, cornus, hydrangea, conifers, beeches, oaks and limes, underplanted with foxgloves, cyclamen, blue omphalodes and pink erythroniums. There is also a series of yew garden rooms, one with battlement shapes cut into the yew enclosing a lily pond, another paved with two standard wisterias and a *planting in pastel shades.* The *entrances to the garden rooms* are having some Talbot hounds added and there is already a hunting scheme in topiary roaring along the top of one of the hedges. This was the work of Sir John and Lady Heathcoat Amory who took *over the garden in the 1930s.*

One of the great attractions *of Knightshayes is that it has* had continual, dedicated care since the 1870s when the garden designer Edward Kemp first made the terraces in front of the house. That tradition is being maintained by the head gardener, Michael Hickson, who is arranging for *20 new trees a year to be* planted for the next 50 years.

■ How Caple Court, How Caple, Hereford (01989 740626)

Ten miles southeast of Hereford on B4224. Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm. Sun 10am-5pm. £2.50, children £1.25. Opera evening tonight prices, £22, or £27 for a reserved seat: phone 01989 740626.

Here is a chance to admire a garden at night serenaded by *Madame Butterfly* while tucking into a picnic of your own making: a *mini* Glyndebourne, *without the huge prices. But if you can't make it* tonight the gardens are open until the end of October.

The site is high above the River Wye, with informal *plantings* of redwoods, metasequoia, limes, beech, the Atlas cedar *(Cedrus atlantica)*, oak and shrubs extending the natural woodland that surround the gardens.

Although How Caple Court was mentioned in the Doomsday book, the 11-acre garden is essentially Edwardian and was designed by Lennox B. Lee, the great-grandfather of the owner, Roger Lee, and his sister Georgina, who are restoring the gardens. The only major change since their great grandfather's time is a border designed by Alan Bloom. The *most ambitious* part of the Lees' programme is giving the kiss of life to the Florentine water garden, which was so overgrown that, as children, the Lees knew it as "the jungle". They also hope to restore the yew topiary, central fountain and the huge wood and brick pillared pergola which ran around the four sides of the garden.

One of the highlights of the water garden is the cascade, which runs through several other parts of the garden.

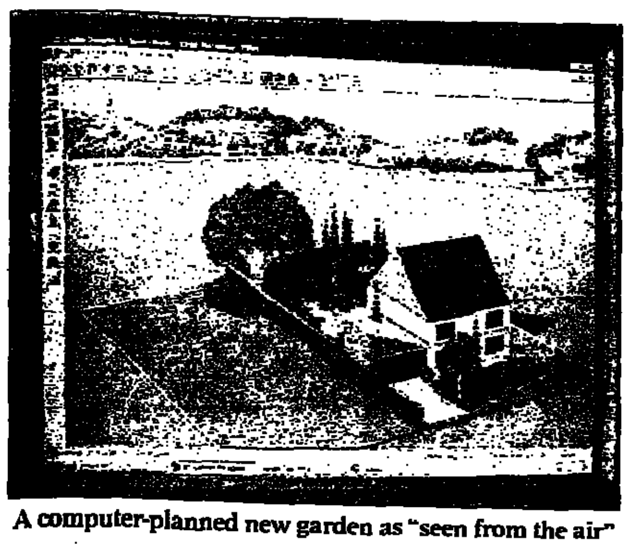
JANE OWEN

The key to designing a computer garden

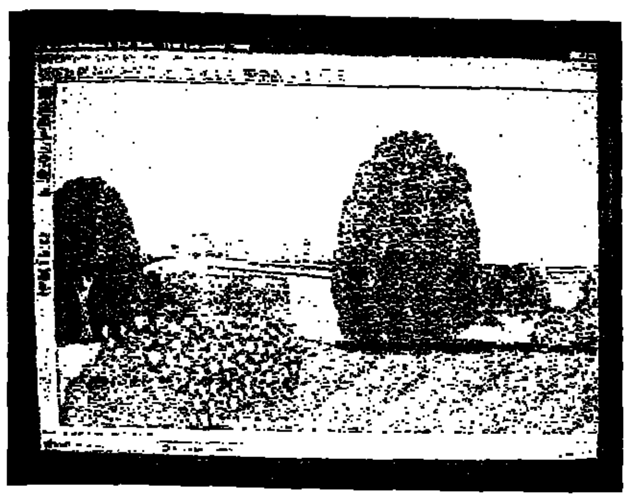
Stephen Anderton, with the help of design students, tries out an on-screen way to plan a garden

DES JENSON

Landscape and garden design students at Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex, try out the *3D Garden Designer 3* computer package



A computer-planned new garden as "seen from the air"



The graphics pack offers trees and plants of every kind

Have you ever fancied getting out a drawing pad and pencil and re-designing your garden from scratch? You'll need lots of paper and a good imagination. But, better still, you can use a computer. There are CD packages around now for the amateur gardener with a home PC which will show how the garden you design will look on a plan, from a window, and even looking down as if from a helicopter.

I took half a dozen copies of *3D Garden Designer 3* to Writtle College at Chelmsford, Essex, to see what the landscape and garden design students would make of it. Their brief was to produce a small garden around a modern house on an irregular but level plot.

Getting started was easy enough. The package runs from a CD and the instructions, such as there are, come in a small booklet inside the CD case. The idea is that the process of working with the CD should be obvious, and it is to anyone at all used to simple computer graphics.

Instead of typing words on to a screen, you put on shapes and plants. There are "handles" to each shape, which allows you to move it, rotate it, alter the size, colour or texture.

The difference between such 3D amateur packages and professional garden design packages can be considerable: professional CAD packages (Computer Aided Design) present a blank screen on which you can accurately draw all kinds of complex 2D plans, and print them out to scale as working drawings. These packages start at about £90 and can cost many times as much.

The *3D Garden Designer 3* is an object-based package which allows you to arrange specific plants and buildings and paths on the screen, adjust them to your specification, and "tour" the result in 3D.

With this package, you can watch your "garden" flower and change colour through the passing seasons, or watch it grow through the years — even see where the shadows fall through the day. It even has sound effects and for £29.99 it's pretty amazing.

The six Writtle students who tried it were familiar with professional packages. They found the amateur one was easy enough to use, though they were faster at getting going than many people would be. As a techno-novice, I found it all perfectly understandable, and rather fun.

If there was a reservation, it was that the degree to which you could set out the basic layout of the garden was limited. Slopes were crude, sizes not easy to pre-arrange, and there was little detail available in the hard landscaping.

On the other hand, as designers and not gardeners, the students found the database of 1,500 plants extremely useful. This covers a wide range of plants, with photographs, and basic information on their habits and needs. It will select a palette of plants suitable for your soil and climate, when pH, winter minimum temperatures, and latitude and longitude are typed in. It will even give you a brief pruning programme for the year.

The disc can produce a ground plan of the garden, with a grid, and planting locations for all the chosen plants. It will print out, in colour, as many views of the garden as you choose, from whatever angle or season, or time of day. All at the click of a mouse.

But is any of this really useful? As a gardener I have mixed feelings. It seems such a long step from this virtual, cartoon gardening to a real garden of living healthy plants, with subtly differing colours and scents and textures, and the gamut of physical variables thrown up by climate and disease and time. The CD's printed results look professional and persuasive to a degree way beyond the horticultural substance of the package. It would still need a good gardener to refine a design from this package, and to make a good garden from it.

However, on screen the package offers a great opportunity to look at ideas for the basic spaces of a garden, to see how they feel, and how you might wish to colour them in through the detailed planting.

The man who would have really appreciated such a package, if it was better at curves, is Humphrey Repton, who followed Capability Brown as Britain's leading landscape designer at the end of the 18th century. His practice, when consulted on an improvement, was to draw up a Red Book for the garden, with before-and-after overlay paintings of his proposals for the garden, and an obsequious accompanying text.

But the designers of that day left much of the planting detail, the flowers and shrubs, to the gardener. Theirs was the vision only. And that is just where this package is useful: in looking at spaces and shapes and possibilities. A keen novice gardener would find it an entertaining way in to designing and planting his first garden, but an experienced gardener would find it useful only for playing with spaces and ideas. No way could you plan a subtle border colour scheme with this.

The package, in fact, features "a popular auto-designer" which claims to fill spaces with suitable plants but, like cheap wallpaper, it is pretty horrid. Still, for less than £30 it's not bad.

To me, who played his first computer game the same week, it seemed like fun. Not quite gardening, but fun; a game. It might be more fun if, having set up your virtual garden, you could then play "Chatterley" on the joystick, with Mellors roaring after Lady C through the shrubberies, or "Mollusc", perhaps, in which Mellors has to zap the terrible 40ft slug before it zaps him. Gardening might never be the same again.

A GARDEN AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

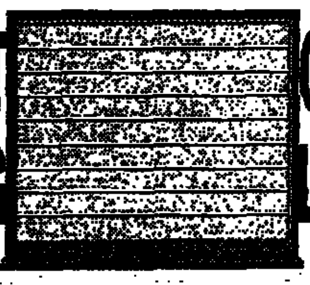
THE CD-Rom *3D Garden Designer 3* is available through high-street computer and electrical outlets, also by mail order from the manufacturer, Europress, of Europa House, Adlington Park, Macclesfield SK10 4NP, for £29.99, plus £2.95 p&p.

System requirements: Minimum — PC486 DX4, 100, 8Mb Ram, SVGA, double-speed CD-Rom drive, SoundBlaster compatible sound-card. Windows 95. Recommended: PC P100, 16Mb Ram, SVGA, quad speed CD-Rom drive, SoundBlaster compatible sound card, Windows 95.

TECHNO GARDENING

For computer-owning gardeners, the Plant Finder Reference Library 1997/98 is available on CD-Rom from the Plant Finder, FREEPOST, Lewes BN7 2ZZ at £25 Plus £1 p&p.
It represents excellent value because the disk includes 12 databases, including The Plant Finder, Fruit and Veg Finder, Seed Search, Plant Photo Finder, National Trust and National Trust for Scotland Properties and Gardens Dictionary of Common Names, and Internet Directory for Botany.

HOMES & GARDENS



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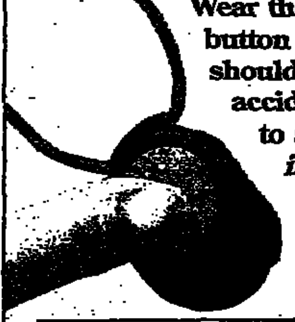

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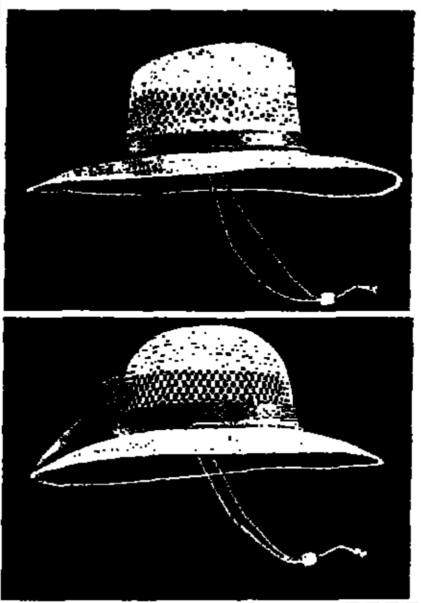

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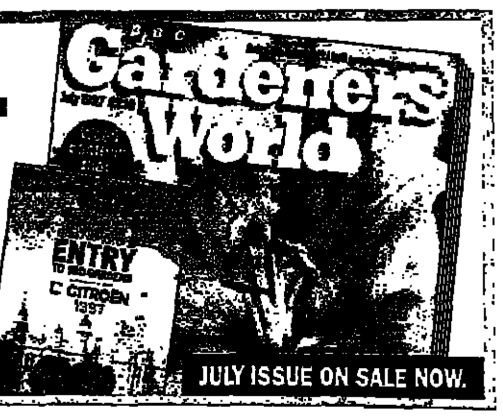

TAKE A FRIEND FOR FREE TO 190 GARDENS.
Our July issue includes a free guide booklet to 190 wonderful gardens, plus a two for the price of one entry pass.
You'll also find Adam Pasco's at-a-glance guide to gardening action throughout the month.
We highlight the plants that are at their best in June and July and James Wickham selects his favourites.
Nigel Colborn traces the history of lilies and tells you how to grow them alongside other plants.
JULY ISSUE ON SALE NOW.

Good bugs, bad bugs, ugly bugs

It pays to know your allies in the war in the garden. Wise gardeners provide a welcoming habitat for beneficial insects

Spot something nasty in your woodpile or, worse, on your artichokes, and your instinct may be to reach for the spray gun. But wait. Don't reach for your spray gun until you know what you're firing at. (And if you want to avoid the indiscriminate danger that even organic pesticides can cause, don't spray even then.)

This insect could be a ladybird in its larval form, when it looks very different to the lovable little beetle, the gardener's friend, that feasts on aphids. The larva has a tapering, segmented, blue-grey body and black and yellow markings.

"Ladybird larvae look like small reptiles," says Susan Maguire, chairman of the Chichester Organic Gardening Society. "They're lovely — they swarm over my artichokes and runner beans, eating all the blackfly." Mrs Maguire is one of 21,500 members of the Henry Doubleday Research Association (HDRA), a vital source of information and encouragement for any gardener wanting to work with beneficial insects. The HDRA runs organic gardens in Kent and Warwickshire, holds workshops, publishes books and leaflets, and, through its Organic Gardening Catalogue, sells plants to attract insects, biological controls such as predatory midges to control greenfly and blackfly in the greenhouse, parasitic wasps to attack whitefly, predatory mites to feed on the red spider mite and nematode worms to kill slugs.

With the HDRA's book, *Pests: How to Control Them on Fruit and Vegetables*, you will be better able to identify larval and pupal ladybirds. But the best way to spot another misunderstood and highly beneficial insect — the hoverfly, in all its 100 British species — is by its distinctive flying style. Val Porter, author of the *RSPCA Guide to Garden Wildlife*, says: "They dart away every now and then but quickly return to their beat, maintaining the same position like a helicopter over a shipwreck."

Careful: Susan MacGuire

Continually swatted at for its resemblance to wasps, the stingless hoverfly is harmless to humans, but Attila the Hun to greenfly: one hoverfly larva can eat 50 of them a day. "We have hundreds of hoverflies and lacewings in our garden, the thing is not to be too tidy," says Mrs Maguire, echoing the official Henry Doubleday advice to those working with insects. Insect-minded gardeners are encouraged to leave dead leaves and hollow dead stems undisturbed for hibernating ladybirds; to ensure there are stones lying about to accommodate spiders; and to keep a woodpile to attract hoverflies and scores of other invertebrates.

"I've let wild plants grow in my vegetable garden because they attract beneficial insects and I've created great piles of decaying wood," says Mrs Maguire. "I let the early nettles come in so the ladybirds have something to feed on. And we have a drystone wall for beetles. I never discourage spiders as their webs catch insects which can do damage in greenhouses."

Mrs Maguire, a former ballet dancer, and her husband Peter, a retired civil engineer, have an acre of garden near Chichester, in West Sussex, which they have created on the site of a former dog kennels. She says: "There was virtually nothing here at all, just grass and a lot of concrete. Someone told me it would take seven years, but in the sixth the garden exploded with insects. I suppose I'd got the balance right by then. It's a mixed garden — fruit, vegetables and flowers. There is also a tennis lawn and we've planted a small wood.

"We learn to live with the odd pest. Three years ago, wasps attacked the fruit so I just hung up jam jars with jam and water inside, and that was sufficient, though I didn't like doing it."

PLANET EARTH

The familiar ladybird is a gardener's friend, devouring aphids — but the larvae look completely different

Sometimes following the "untidy" path can attract unwanted bugs, as Derek Sawyers, a member of Horsham Organic Gardeners, also in West Sussex, discovered. The woodlouse is one insect attracted by his heaps of dead wood. "And although they recycle rotting material, they also chew cucumbers, making them unsightly but still edible. But there's often a natural answer to such problems, and I find frogs clear up the woodlice. Slugs are not a battle either. I go out in March, as it begins to get warm, and just pick them up for a few days. If you're organic and have got a lot of decaying matter, they should prefer that to your green vegetables. And ground beetles seem to get the slugs I miss."

SUE CORBETT

FACT FILE

READING

- *Gardening with Beneficial Insects for Natural Pest Control* (Henry Doubleday Research Association, 75p (01932 820958).
- *Pests: How to Control Them on Fruit and Vegetables*, by Pauline Pears and Bob Sherman (Henry Doubleday Research Association/ Search Press, £5.50 (01932 820958).
- *The RHS Book of Garden Pests and Diseases*, by Pippa Greenwood and Andrew Halstead (Dorling Kindersley, £17.99).
- *RSPCA Guide to Garden Wildlife*, by Val Porter (HarperCollins, £9.99).

ORGANISATIONS

- Henry Doubleday Research Association, The National Centre for Organic Gardening, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3LG (01203 303517). Subscription £17 pa (individual), £20 (family). The HDRA's Organic Gardening Catalogue is produced by Chase Organics, Coombelands Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1HY (01932 820958).
- The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD (0171-938 9123). Write to their Entomology Inquiries Department for free help with identifying any insect (a small donation would be appreciated). Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE (0171-834 4333). Subscription £32 pa. Senior entomologist Andrew Halstead, based at the RHS Garden, Wisley, Surrey, offers an insect identification and advice service.
- Wiggly Wigglers, Lower Blakemere, Herefordshire HR2 9PX (01981 500391). Mail-order composting kits, earthworms and composting worms.
- On November 27, 1997 (book ahead), Louise Hayes, of the RHS Centre, Pershore, Worcs (01386 554609), will show how worms can work for you.

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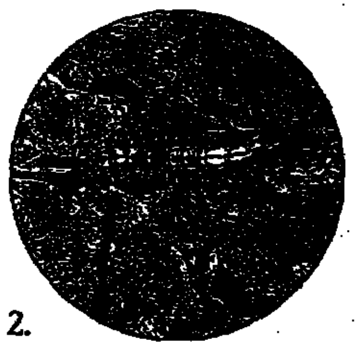

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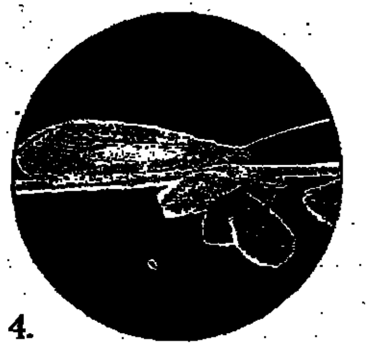

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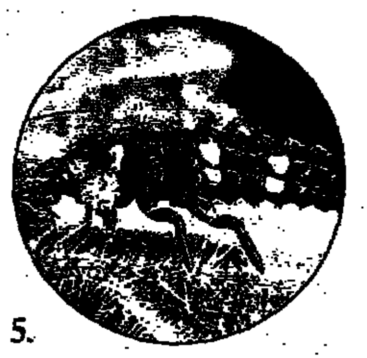

5.

THE GOOD GUYS

1. Anthocorid bugs prey on aphids, capsid bugs, caterpillars, midges and scale insects. You can attract them by planting patches of nettles, and growing plenty of trees and hedgerows.

2. Centipedes prey on slugs. Attract them by mulches and leaving some areas of untidiness in the garden.

3. Ground beetles and rove beetles prey on slugs, root aphids and root fly larvae and eggs. Attract them with asters, buckwheat, buttercups, candytuft, *Convolvulus tricolor*, dill, fennel, hyssop, *Limnanthes douglasii* (poached egg plant), nettles, rudbeckia.

4. Lacewing larvae prey on aphid, beetles, caterpillars, leafhoppers, mites and scale insects. Adults feed on nectar. The best way to attract them is by planting Michaelmas daisies, mustard, nettles and yarrow. To make ideal winter quarters for them, the HRDA recommends cutting off the base of a two-litre lemonade bottle, pushing a roll of corrugated cardboard inside and attaching it, open end downwards, to a tree or fence.

5. Ladybird larvae prey on aphids, mealy bugs, mites, scale insects and thrips. Attract them with nettles and plant debris.

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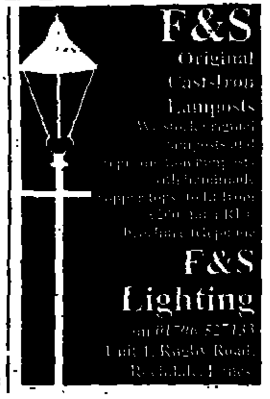

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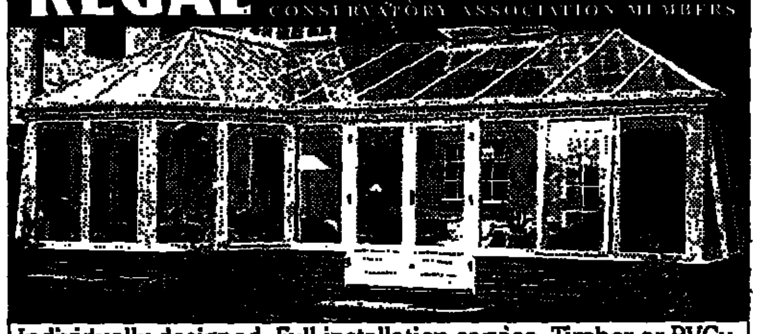

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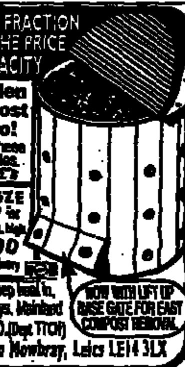

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The lair of a paper tiger

Churchill and Lloyd George were on the guest list when Lord Beaverbrook entertained at this imposing old farmhouse in Fulham

There is a numerical hiatus between numbers 74 and 92 on the Hurlingham Road in south west London. This entire area is taken up by The Vineyard, a completely unexpected property sitting in nearly an acre of garden in Fulham. Owned since 1918 by the Beaverbrook family, formerly owners of the Express newspaper, it has a rural air despite being only a few miles from the city centre.

Built in 1680 as a small farmhouse, the house was extended in the 18th century when the Georgian façade and veranda were added and again in 1920, after Lord Beaverbrook bought it. He added arches supporting a terrace and additional bathroom at the rear of the house.

Kirsty Smallwood, Lord Beaverbrook's granddaughter, inherited the house from her great aunt in 1970. She indicates where much of the 17th-century detail remains. All the panelling is original and the drawing room, to the right of the front door, has remained unchanged. This room, the book-lined hall and a room the family call the study constituted the original farmhouse. Even the farm pigsties have survived the centuries in good order and are now usefully employed housing the deep freeze and a number of bicycles.

A large Aga dominates the kitchen, contributing to the sensation that one is not in London at all, that this old farmhouse is buried in the deepest countryside. Next to the kitchen is a shower room. The large modern-looking walk-in shower is actually Edwardian and not only sprays from the shower head but also from pipes at the side.

The study, the main room on this floor, was once a barn. It doubles as a dining room and Mrs Smallwood has seated 24 people in here. Lord Beaverbrook also used it as a cinema. After dinner he would reveal a screen behind a curtain and one of his staff would change the reels from the next door projection room — now a cloakroom.

The master bedroom on the first floor, like all the bedrooms, has a working fireplace. Decorated in restful blue and white, the windows either look onto the garden or, on the other side, onto the Hurlingham Club bowling green. The *en suite* bathroom has a huge 1920's bath, the sort you can float in without touching the sides. The second of the two spare bedrooms on this floor has been changed into a dressing room. Deep drawers have been installed by Mrs Smallwood's architect husband, Christopher, to accommodate her impressive collection of shoes.

There are four more bedrooms on the second floor, one obviously still inhabited by Mrs Smallwood's daughter, Eleanor, who is at boarding school. A frieze of elephants marches half way around the top of the wall and then stops. "We got bored stencilling them," she confesses. Next door is a child's bedroom measuring just 12ft by 5ft. Winkling a child out of bed in this tiny room is apparently like dislodging a limpet. An odd feature of one of the spare rooms on this floor is a raised platform under the window. "It was the top of the lift shaft which was installed for my great aunt and which we had dismantled when we took on the house," says the owner.

She readily admits that her illustrious grandfather never lived in the house. He used it for entertaining. "He had houses in Piccadilly and Surrey and this was about equidistant between them. Because the house is so secluded he could entertain privately here and no one saw who was coming and going." The guest list included Lloyd George, Bonar Law and Winston Churchill.

Mrs Smallwood is no slouch in the entertaining department herself. She considers her finest hour to have been a party in aid of Indian famine relief in 1990. Snake charmers, fire eaters and Indian dancers cavorted in the garden with 500 guests.

Family weddings are a doddle. The marquee goes up on one of the lawns, leaving the rest of the garden for guests to walk around. The garden is extraordinary compared to the average pocket handkerchief size you find in this part of London but its flourishing magnificence is due to the current owners' efforts. Lord Beaverbrook obviously only liked lawn because the whole garden consisted of grass. "There was not a single flower," Mrs Smallwood says.

She had trees planted and a series of different areas have been created over the years which are connected at the west end by a woodland walk filled with wild flowers. This leads to a more formal area with a brick path with old fashioned borders which divide the three lawns.

At the front a long paved garden runs across the length of the house and has borders brimming with lavender, jasmine and wisteria. The gardener who looks after this *rus in urbe* lives in the cottage on the property and spends two days a week on its maintainance.

The family is moving to the country. Normally the daughter of the house would start urging her parents to buy her a pony. This family is different. They intend to keep — and ride — camels.

Leaving this peaceful setting came as a jolt. I found myself on the pavement and realised that I was only two minutes walk from Parsons Green Tube station.

KATHERINE BERGEN

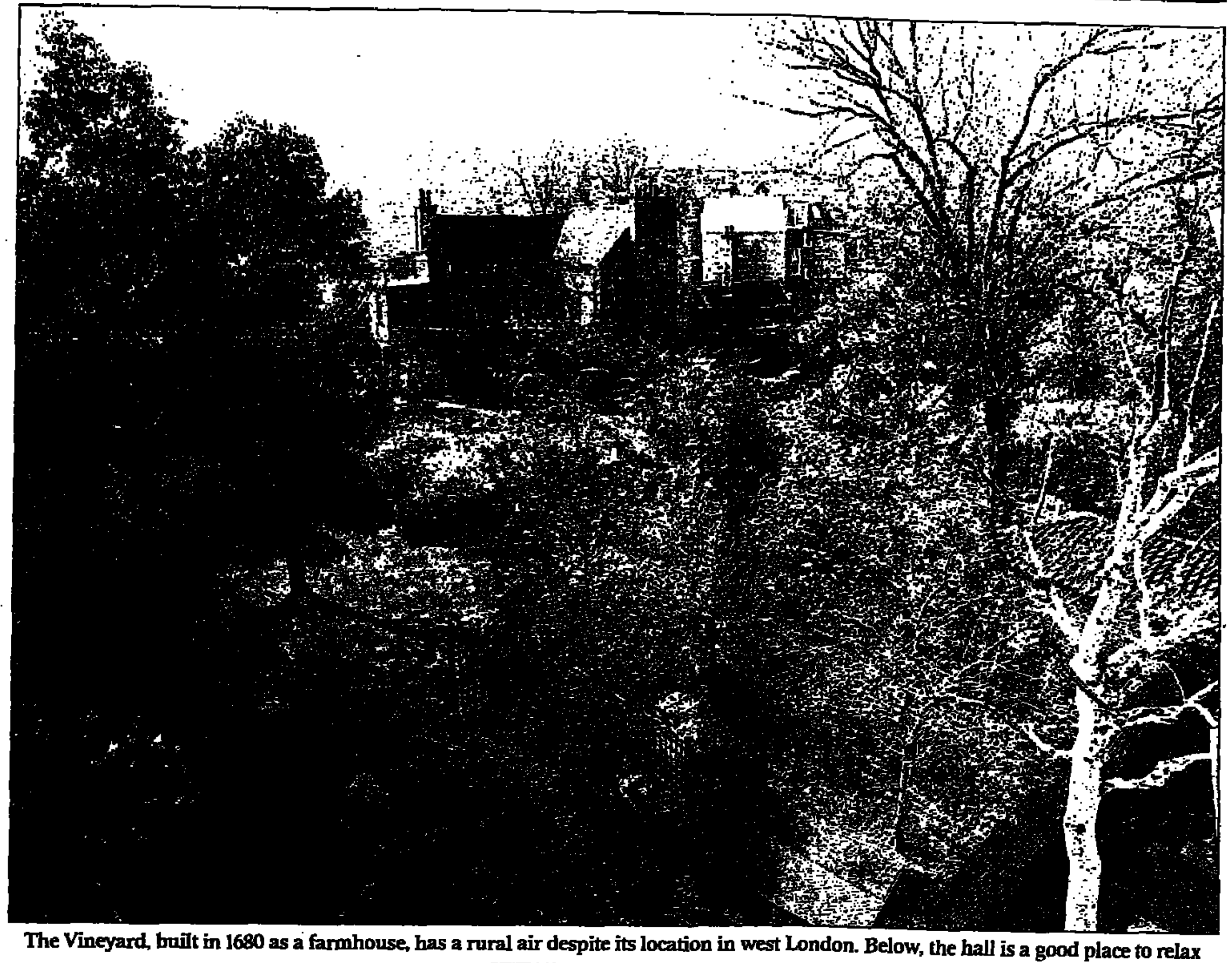
Agents: Aylesford (0171-351 2383).

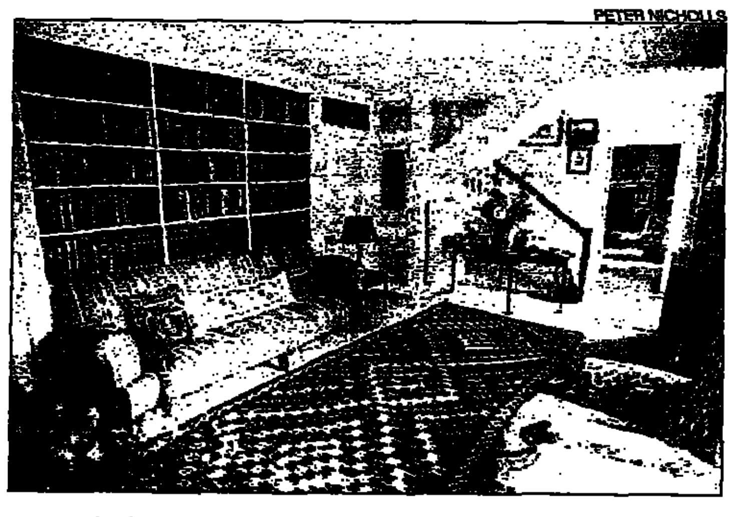
A long paved garden runs the length of the house at the front

Kirsty Smallwood at the rear of The Vineyard

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

● The Vineyard, Hurlingham Road, London SW6 ● **Price:** £6 million with Aylesford (0171-351 2383) ● **Advantages:** Security and privacy. The house is surrounded by a high brick wall affording both ● **Disadvantages:** The price is steep but the plot is substantial ● **Shopping:** Mrs Smallwood recommends Kings delicatessen and Sainsbury's in Parsons Green ● **Transport:** Two Tube stations within walking distance ● **Do:** Join the nearby Hurlingham Club for tennis and swimming ● **Avoid:** The White Horse pub (aka The Sloaney Pony) on Parsons Green





The Vineyard, built in 1680 as a farmhouse, has a rural air despite its location in west London. Below, the hall is a good place to relax

PETER NICHOLLS

NORTH OF THE THAMES

BAKER STREET, NW1. Excellent 3 bed 2 bath large reception flat in prime portered block. £265,000 (First to see will buy) SANDFORDS 0171 723 9988

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MACROOM RD W9 Split level 2 bed 2 rec flat £145,000 L/hold. Cass & Co 0171 286 5757

MAIDA VALE, W9. Exceptional 3 bed 2 bath 1 shower flat with balcony in prime portered block. Close Little Venice, 68 year lease. Offers on £285,000 SANDFORDS 0171 723 9988

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REGENTS PARK close tube 4 dble bed, 2 bath, clkrm, lge lounge, lift. £395,000. 0171 724 9919

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W2 BAYSWATER Raised grd flr flt, 1 bed, bath, recep rm with o/plan kitchen & gallery area. £95,000. 01202 551022.

WESTBOURNE TERR W2 Close to Lancaster Gate. Stunning 3 bed 2 bath raised ground floor conversion with magnificent 20' reception room, fire place, period features. £325,000 Share of Freehold. Westbourne Estates 0171 727 8612.

ACTON
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NW6, QUEEN'S PARK
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SOUTH OF THE THAMES

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WAPPING 3 bedroom house west facing terrace, secure parking. £164,950. 0171 480 6815.

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FULHAM PALACE RD, SW6. 2 dble bed maisonette, lge recep. £180,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666.

PARSONS GREEN SW6 5 bedroom house. Requires work. £495,000 0171 610 6666.

NEW KINGS RD, SW6. 1 bed garden flat. £120,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666.

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SW5 Newly refurbished grand reception room, 3 bed maisonette, private walled garden. Reduced to £465K for quick sale. 0181 446 3177.

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KNIGHTSBRIDGE Huge 2 dble bed mansion apart with lux kit, porterage £275,000. Park & Tube 1 min 0171 221 9044

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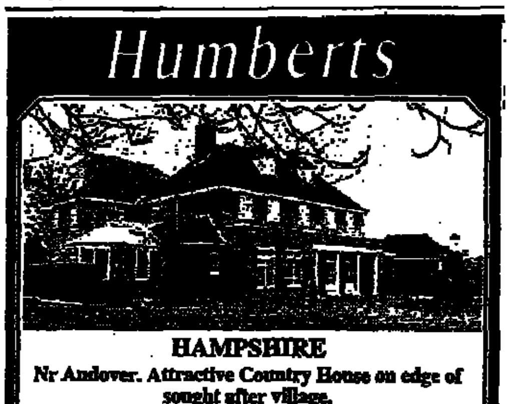
COUNTRY PROPERTY

Humberts



HAMPSHIRE
Nr Andover. Attractive Country House on edge of sought after village.
3 reception rooms, breakfast room, kitchen, utility, conservatory, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (3 ensuite). Garaging and outbuildings. Approx 1 acre.
Price Guide: £395,000
Humberts Salisbury office
(01722) 324422

HERTFORDSHIRE

GOFF'S OAK
Introducing Bellwinch Homes Prestige Portfolio.
A select development of just seven detached homes. Four or Five bedrooms, double garage, high specification, superb location.
View Home Now Open.
Prices from £299,000
01707 876498
10am - 5pm 7 Days.

KENT

HADLOW
Apartment grade II listed building. Private entrance to sitting room 27x17'10. 2 double bedrooms both en-suite. Marble floor/wall tiles, exposed beams, iron wood staircase, brick barreled vaulted ceilings, dining room, fitted kitchen, mini courtyard.
OIRO £190,000.
Tel: 01732 852228

Walmer near Deal.
Superb 2nd floor flat in peaceful rural surroundings, 2 bedrooms, balcony, double glazing, garage and parking area, landscaped gardens, sea views, beach 3 minutes. Fine walking country, close to channel ports. Shopping near by, suitable holiday home or for retirement. No chain.
£49,500
Tel:01304 369301

WATERINGBURY
Superb newly completed family house in village centre pos. 5 dble beds all en suite, 3 large recept., oak kit., utility, w.c., cloaks, plus S/C staff/granny flat (nearly 4000sq.ft. in all), sec. walled gdn, dble gge - £345,000
OWLQUEST LTD
01622 817999
(off.hrs)
01622 882102
(evs. & wknds)

LINCOLNSHIRE

LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS Detached country cottage in 0.67 acres. No immediate neighbours. Outstanding views. Hamlet in area of natural beauty, yet only 2 miles from market town. £126,000 Broadgate & Thompson Louth 01507 603101.

LINCOLNSHIRE

PEACE and Seclusion plus an income. 18,000 sq ft poultry buildings with Land for expansion. Transferable contract secures income. 4 bedroom house, fch, dg,lge gdn, £190,000
Tel:01507 363791

NORFOLK

NORTH NORFOLK Coast. Converted Quayside Grain Mill. Spectacular location overlooking salt marshes and harbour. 12 apartments, 8 sold/sale agreed. Prices from £90,000. Tel: 01603 763939 ref ECT.

NORTH NORFOLK. Outstanding Grade II listed manor house with spectacularly converted historic barn suitable for annexe/offices subject to consents. Guide price: £395,000. Tel: 01603 763939 ref ECT.

NORWICH 11 miles SE. Convenient coast and broads, fine modern hse, 3 receps, study, fit kit, utility, 6 beds, 2 baths, lge conservatory, dble gge, lge gdn. £172,500. D & A Hood, Beccles 01502 712245 (24 hr unsw).

CONTEMPORARY coastal res at Kirkaney (nr Holt), sea view, main accomm on grd flr + annexe, 6 beds, 4 baths, indoor pool, superb garden, grounds. Guide £375,000 Brochure. Watsons 01263 711021 or John B Shrive 01263 713303.

1 Bdrm flat. 2nd flr of Georgian Hse in centre of Vill. Norfolk/Suffolk border. 6 mls Diss on bus route. Suit single person. £200pcm
(01379) 898714
eves & weekends.

OXFORDSHIRE

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO saves time/trouble finding your home in Oxon/Berks/S Northants. 01869 346736.

SCOTLAND

GLENLYON. The Old Manse is for sale. Details from Savills, 0131 226-6961 View by appt.

N.W.HIGHLANDS in Sutherland. Rare opportunity. Lovely old and spacious house in idyllic remote area overlooking sea & mountains. Large studio/ accomodation set in 1½ acres. Offers over £150,000. Tel: 01747 855163

LOG CABIN
nr Inverness, fully equip, comfortable. STB rated/4 crowns, highly commended, in beautiful forest setting. Excellent for walking, fishing, golfing, touring or relaxing. Ideal private/family or business use, offers over £35,000
TEL: 01560 482277

SCOTTISH ISLES

ARGYLL
Isle of Islay, The Old Manse, The OA.
Situated in one of the most beautiful parts of the Island. The Old Manse is a charming Georgian stone built property (built by Thomas Telford in 1827) set in 7 acres of land and enjoying panoramic south facing views over surrounding countryside. The property provides excellent family accommodation, only 4 miles from Port Ellen, with office facilities installed and also with B & B potential. Extensive outbuildings. Colour brochure from the selling agents, Stewart Balfour & Sutherland, 24/26 Longrow South, Campbeltown (01586) 553737 who are inviting offers over £80,000.

SOMERSET

SOMERSET
South Petherton
Detached Residence, edge of country town with amenities, 2 receps, 3 beds, 2 baths, Gas CH, garden, double garage.
£152,500.
BLACK HORSE AGENCIES
01460 241880.

SURREY

CAMBERLEY, An imposing Edwardian Residence situated in a highly regarded residential road offering 7/8 bedrms, 3 receps, kitchen/dining rm, 3 bathrms within approx. ½ acre. OIRO. £500,000. Countryside & Fine Homes: 01252 846846

DORKING
3 & 4 bedroom new homes set in a sought after residential location.
High quality specification.
Part Exchange available
4 bedroom homes from £226,500
Showhome open Thu - Mon, Telephone 01306 887971

OVERLOOKING THE THAMES
Sunbury.
5th detached double fronted excellently maintained 1930 house, character features, GCH, 2/3 large receps, large all year conservatory leading to garden. 3/4 large double bedrooms, 1 bath en suite, separate showerroom with wc, downstairs cloakroom, fitted custom made French oak kitchen/ breakfast rm. 4-car garage. Moving abroad
Must sell.
£315,000.
Tel: 01932 786625

COUNTRY PROPERTY

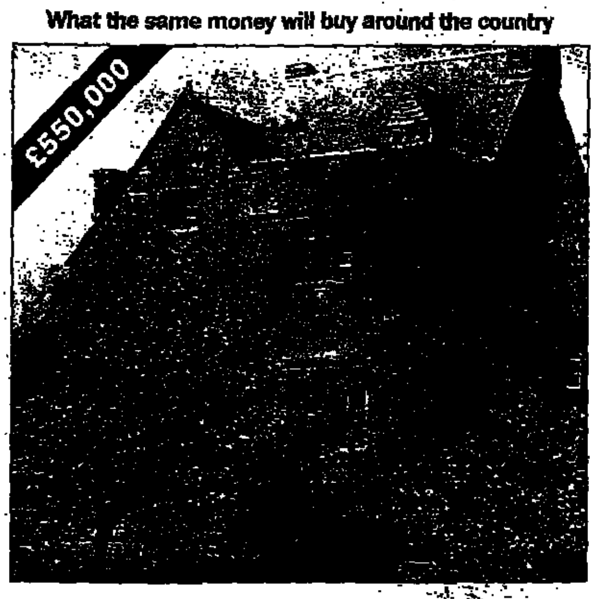
CLUTTONS

MID SUSSEX - LINDFIELD
Haywards Heath mainline station 2 miles

A spacious stone built country house in an elevated rural position with excellent equestrian facilities.
Hall, 2 cloakrooms, 3 reception rooms, study, kitchen, breakfast room, office, domestic offices, 3 bedroom suites, 2 further main bedrooms & bathroom, 5 attic bedrooms and bathroom.
Garaging for 4 cars. Farmbuildings including period barn, stable yard with 8 boxes, further stabling, indoor school.
Well stocked gardens with 2 ponds. Long drive approach.
4 paddocks.
In all about 26 Acres
55 Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath,
West Sussex, RH16 3BN.
Tel: 01444 441166

HOMESWAP

What the same money will buy around the country



In Oxfordshire, *slightly more than half a million pounds will buy you* Bramshill Manor, a restored seven bedroom Grade II listed 16th-century manor house, in walled gardens and paddocks, at Horley near Banbury. (Lane Fox, 01295 273592).

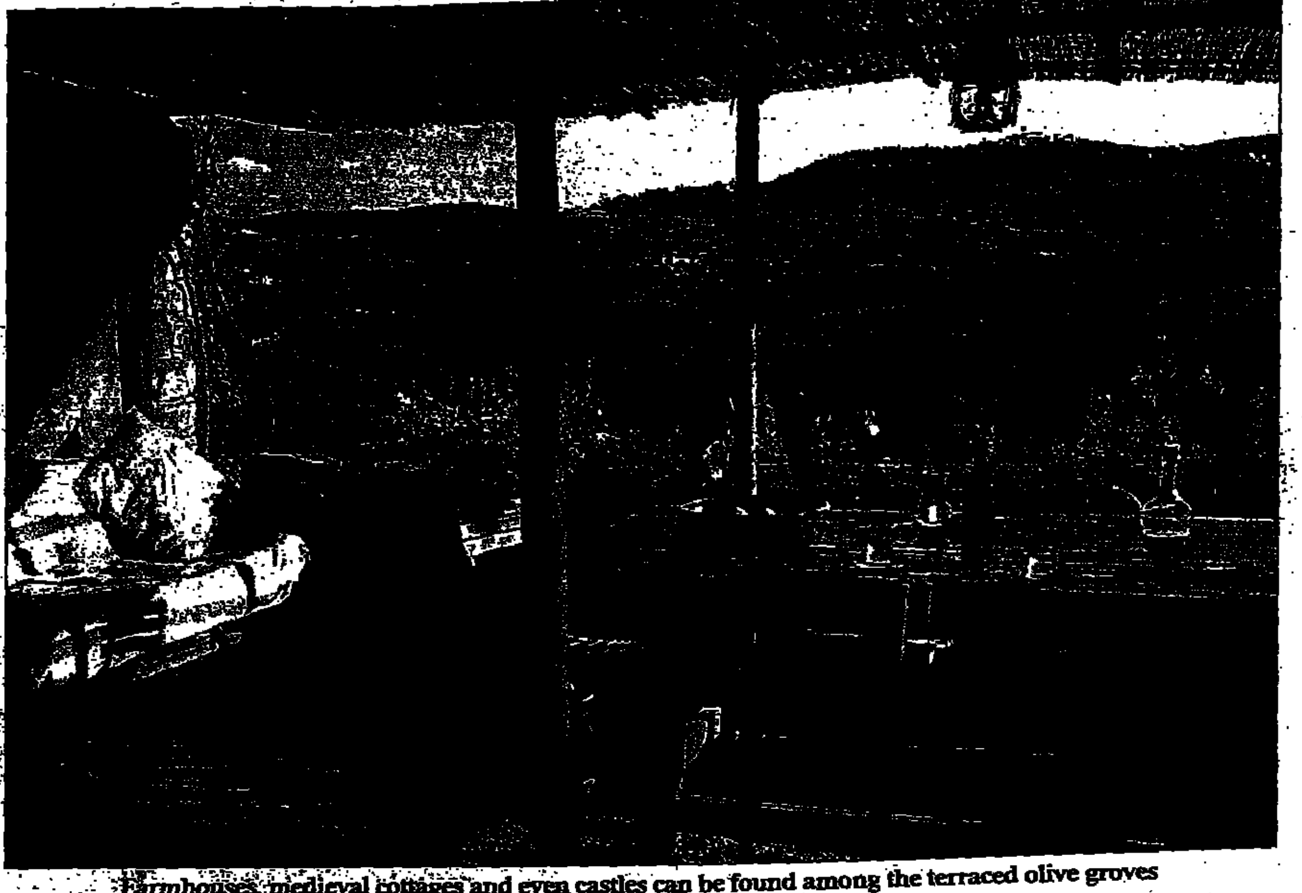
Spend a little more (£575,000) north of the border in rural Ayrshire, and you could afford Monkcastle, a secluded residential estate in 122 acres of parkland and woodland, with a nine-bedroom Georgian *mansion, half an hour from Glasgow airport. There is also a* two-bedroom lodge house, estate office and a range of modern buildings. (Cluttons, 01292 268181).

For about the same amount you could consider this modern three-bedroom mews house in a sunny courtyard at Tarrant Place, *Crawford Street, in London's west end, (John D Wood, 0171-408 0055* and Egerton 0171-493 0676).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Enticed by the dolce vita

Britons are being lured back to Italy and are buying up old houses for renovation


OLIVER BENN

Farmhouses, medieval cottages and even castles can be found among the terraced olive groves

The British are rushing to buy homes in Italy again, *thanks to the strength of the pound* against the Italian lira which has kept prices low for British buyers. The domestic Italian market remains in the doldrums, so there are lots of properties and scope for *investment.* Properties on the Italian Riviera and around the famous lakes of Como and Garda are attracting renewed interest, as well as in the more familiar English stamping *ground of Tuscany* and rural Umbria, the "green heart" of Italy.

Steve Emmett of the specialist estate agent Brian A. French & Associates, says the property market in central Italy is particularly active. "Low prices and a strong pound mean British people can get more house for their money here, and the weather is warmer. Around half our clients are looking to settle permanently in Italy," he says.

The Chiantishire image of Tuscany and Umbria *as an extension of* Gloucestershire with grapes, has ensured a steady flow of wealthy Brits armed with power drills and boundless enthusiasm, *willing to restore rustic stone ruins. However, the* stock of ancient buildings in the region has not completely evaporated. Abandoned farmhouses, medieval *cottages and even the occasional* castle can still be found among the vineyards and terraced olive groves.

Property values in Tuscany and Umbria rose steeply in the late 1980s, *but have since remained static. Now* they are starting to edge upwards as increased demand puts pressure on supply. Prices vary, but generally the closer to Florence or Siena, the more *expensive the property.*

Expect to pay £250,000 for a habitable five-bedroom farmhouse amid olive terraces near Cortona, *south of Florence*, a beautiful Renaissance hill town. A similar house in its raw state might fetch £100,000 and cost another £80,000 to restore.

Rock bottom on the price chart in central Tuscany on the books of Brian A. French & Associates is a small apartment in a restored Renaissance building for £38,000. It is situated in the historic hill town of *Sinalunga*, with views over medieval rooftops and vine-clad hills. Close to Siena, a large unrestored stone farmhouse in 40 acres can be yours for £175,000.

Prices slip to the north of the walled town of Lucca and in the Garfagnana, one of the wildest parts of Tuscany, where you can buy a small renovated farmhouse *near skiing in the* Apennines for £80,000. The *most* attractive buys are in the steep hills and river valleys about 20 miles north of Lucca, around the old spa town of *Bagni di Lucca. There are plenty of* stone cottages, farm buildings and townhouses in the surrounding medieval hamlets and terraced hillsides at *less than half the price of those in* other parts of Tuscany.

Prices start at £12,000 for a habitable one-bedroom flat, forming part of a Tuscan townhouse, on the *steep flagged streets of Cocciglia, near* Bagni di Lucca. A derelict farmhouse, approached by a narrow track that winds up a mountainside, can be picked up for £16,000. But you *would need to spend another* £60,000 to make it habitable. Moving upmarket, La Doccia, a beautiful restored 15th-century, six-bedroom *former monastery*, with a guest wing and staff flat, in 72 acres of terraced formal gardens, fruit trees and vines, near Florence, is on offer at £925,000 through Knight Frank.

Those seeking large Tuscan country houses might consider the Val D'Orcia, the wine-growing area around Grosseto, famous for its red wines. A restored 12-room 18th-*century villa, with a swimming pool* and vineyard on five acres, is available here for £350,000. In Umbria, a centuries-old *four-storey pink stucco house with* shuttered windows in the historic centre of Perugia, a city full of architectural gems, can be yours for £114,000 through *Brian A. French &* Associates.

The *same* agent is asking £96,000 for a restored three-storey village house near Castiglione del Lago, with a roof terrace *overlooking Lake Trasimeno*, a popular area with a mild year-round climate. In the same area, £60,000 will buy a habitable townhouse with ten rooms, a garden and views over the countryside. *The unmodernised version costs* £24,000.

On the border of Tuscany and Umbria is the Upper Tiber Valley, *rustic and unspoilt* and famous for its wild boar and black truffles. Here you could buy a restored three-bedroom country house with a garden in a wooded valley near Umbertide for £58,000, or a habitable 15th-century 19-roomed Umbrian farmhouse on two floors, complete with watch towers and mountain views for £110,000.

Prices fall further south and east in Le Marche, where you could pick up a renovated three-storey three-bedroom farmhouse, with a few acres of olive trees, for £65,000. *Or there is a complex of three* tumbledown village houses, with fine views and fig trees but little else, for £10,000.

CHERYL TAYLOR

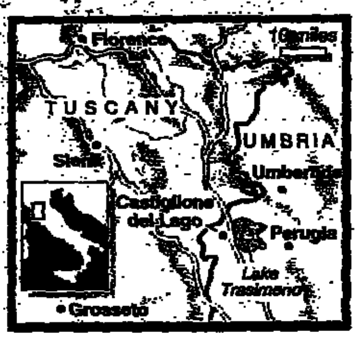
● *Contacts: Brian A. French & Associates (0171-735 8244); Knight Frank (0171-629 8171).*

IN SEARCH OF A ROMAN RUIN

RESTORATION costs in Italy are high, but many of the derelict old village houses have masses *of character and potential.* Renovation work must be approved in advance by the local authority and must also be *carefully designed so as to blend* in with the traditional architecture.

Water and electricity are *potential problems since not all rustic* Italian properties have them. The nearest source of supply could be several miles and lots of cash away so it is important to *check at the outset that they are readily* available.

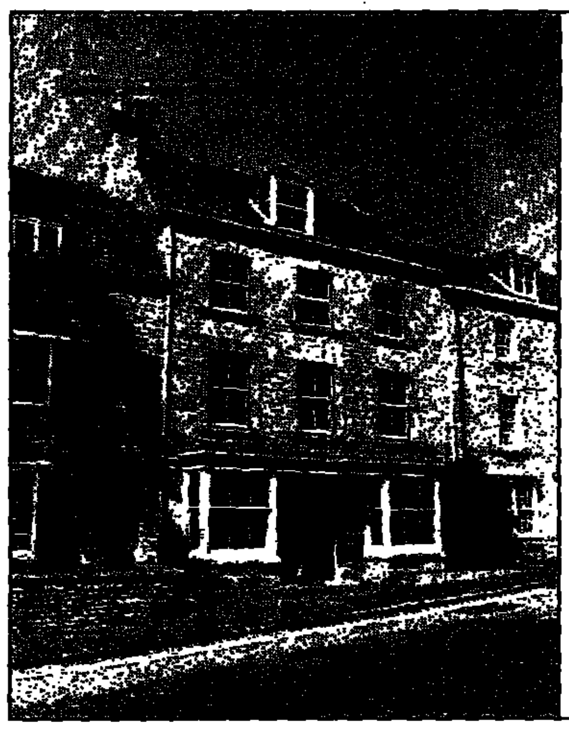
When buying property in Italy, as elsewhere, it is important to engage a lawyer to protect your interests. *It is common for homes to be jointly owned by* several members of a family, and not possible for them to be sold *without the consent* of all concerned. Your solicitor should also ensure there are no outstanding taxes.



Transfer taxes, paid by the second home purchaser on resale property, is 10 per cent of the registered value on buildings and 17 per cent on land. Those seeking permanent residence in Italy pay only 4 per cent transfer tax.

***ALTERNATIVELY, if you* are buying a new home, Italian VAT (IVA) is payable at 9 per cent of value. Solicitor's fees are charged on a *sliding scale from 1 to 3 per cent (the* cheaper the property the higher the fee).**

If you sell your property within the first five years and are *not resident in Italy, you will* be liable for capital gains tax on profits, charged between 10 and 40 per cent. An annual tax — ICI — is payable on buildings at *around 0.4 per cent to 0.6 per cent* of value.



OXFORDSHIRE,
Charlbury.

A handsome Grade II listed house, requiring refurbishment, in the heart of Charlbury.

8 bedrooms,
bathroom,
2 attic rooms,
3 reception rooms,
kitchen, box room,
pantry, cellar,
walled garden, stores
and workshop.

Freehold

Price Guide:
£285,000

OXFORD:
01865 311522

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS ESTABLISHED 1872

ELSYNGE ROAD, SW18. Freehold · Price Guide: £885,000
A handsome and spacious Victorian house half a mile from Clapham Juntion. 6 bedrooms, *3 bathrooms, reception room, kitchen, conservatory and garden. Self contained flat:* bedroom, bathroom, reception room, kitchen and cloakroom.
WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033

UPBROOK MEWS,
W2.

A smart three storey mews house with a carport and bright west facing reception room.

3 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms,
reception room
and kitchen.

Freehold

Price Guide:
£360,000

KENSINGTON:
0171-727 0705

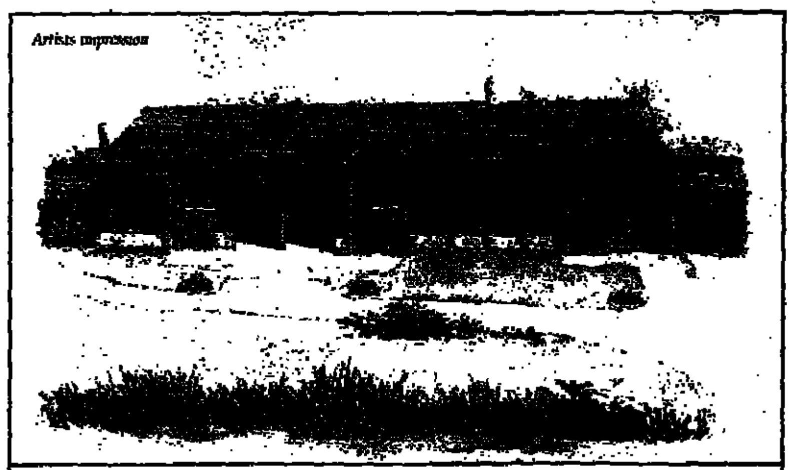
NORTH SOMERSET, Clapton in Gordano. *Price Guide: £650,000*
A house with excellent accommodation in a prestigious private road. 5/7 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3/5 reception rooms, kitchen, playroom/gymnasium, double garage, office, outbuildings, gardens and grounds. About 1.7 ha (4.4 acres).
CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

LONDON OFFICES		COUNTRY OFFICES	
BATTERSEA:	0171-228 0174	HEAD OFFICE:	0171-493 4106
BELGRAVIA:	0171-730 9854	CIRENCESTER:	01285 642244
CHELSEA:	0171-352 1484	EAST GRINSTEAD:	01342 326326
FULHAM:	0171-731 4223	FARNHAM:	01252 737115
KENSINGTON:	0171-727 0705	LYMINGTON:	01590 677233
MAYFAIR:	0171-408 0055	NEWBURY:	01635 523225
ST JOHN'S WOOD:	0171-722 5556	OXFORD	01865 311522
WANDSWORTH:	0181-871 3033	WINCHESTER:	01962 863131
WIMBLEDON:	0181-944 7172	HONG KONG:	00 852 2 872 5146

26 CURZON STREET, LONDON W1Y 8LD
0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071

LETTINGS AND MANAGEMENT
To let your house or flat: Central London 0171-491 4311
North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447
South of the M4 01256 398004 North of the M4 01865 311522

BERKSHIRE, Newbury. Price Guide: £275,000
A well-extended cottage, surrounded by countryside, with a railed paddock. 4 bedrooms, shower room, bathroom, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and garden.
NEWBURY: 01635 523225



HAMPSHIRE, Amport. Prices from: £250,000 to £395,000
An exclusive development of 5 barns, some dating from the 16th Century, in a conservation area. Accommodation ranges from 4-5 bedrooms, 3-4 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, garaging, gardens, 2 with paddocks and all with *frontage to the Pillhill* Brook.
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

PORTLAND PLACE, W1. Lease to 2057 · Price Guide: £460,000
A second and third floor maisonette, in a block, close to Regent's Park.
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, lift and car parking space.
MAYFAIR: 0171-408 0055

HAMPSHIRE, Lockerley. Price Guide: £450,000
A range of period farm buildings to be converted into an exceptional house. Proposed accommodation: 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, dining hall, study area, kitchen, garaging, gardens and paddock. About 0.8 ha (2 acres).
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131

SURREY

DORKING
3 & 4 bedroom new homes set in a sought after residential location.
High quality specification.
Part Exchange available
4 bedroom homes from £226,500
Showhome open Thu - Mon.
Telephone 01306 887871

CHIDDINGFOLD 5 mins BR - 55 Waterloo, spacious det family house, quiet village position, 4 dble beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, study/family room, f/f kitchen, ½ acre gdn + paddocks. OIRO £425,000. 01428 683300

SUSSEX

CROWBOROUGH det. bungalow, modernised, extended, 2 dble bed, f/kit, 2 recep, sun rm, dbl gge, lge feature gdn, FH £230,000. Tel: 01892 526386.

LISTED FARMHOUSE
17thC, nr Rye, enchanting views, 1½ miles outside village 5 beds, 3 receps, 2 baths 1 ens, F/fitted kit, 4 acres, meadow, woodlands, 100 yrds navigable river. £260,000.
Tel:01797 280006.

SUSSEX

Retire to Bluecoat Pond at Christ's Hospital

At the edge of historic Christ's Hospital School, is the latest English Courtyard development. Bluecoat Pond has thirty spacious houses and flats built around the splendid pond and landscaped courtyard, and is only two miles from the many facilities of Horsham. Two-thirds are already sold or reserved Prices from £180,000.

Freephone 0800 454 627 quoting ref NU7

WALES

PROPERTY SEARCH We locate, view, escort & negotiate your desired property purchase. Richard Walsh 01650 511717

CRICKHOWELL POWYS.
Listed terraced 3 bed Georgian house in town centre. Planning permission Residencial/business use. At present, ground floor 5 room art gallery, good reputation/customer list. 1st floor 3 room flat (rental £4,000 plus per annum) with bathroom, and sep entrance. £82,500.
Tel:01624 675715.

YORKSHIRE

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO will find & secure your ideal home in Yorkshire. 01653 690007.

WILTSHIRE

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Saves time/trouble finding your home in Wilts/Som. 01749 831144.

VSE Farm/hse,5bd,3bth,Lge recep&Consv, S/c Studio, gge, stbles, pond, 1/3 acres & grazing rts. £497k 01380 850223

HOME SEARCH

PROPERTY SEARCH
carried out by a London investor working with a major Scandinavian property company
No up front fees
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PARQUE DA FLORESTA
Premier Golf & Leisure Resort
with stunning views over the spectacular par 72 course to the sea. Tennis Courts, Championship Bowls, Heated Pool Complex, Fitness Centre, Restaurants & Bar.
◆ 4 Ownership option from £33,500 ◆
◆ Golf Village Houses from £89,500 ◆
◆ Luxury Villas with pool can be built to your design from £195,000 ◆
All owners enjoy preferred tee off times & 50% off green fees
For details & colour brochure please call Andrew Burridge on:
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UNSPOILT WESTERN ALGARVE

USA

FLORIDA PROPERTY EXHIBITION - ABERDEEN
SUNDAY 15TH JUNE - 10am to 5pm
SKEAN DHU HOTEL, ABERDEEN AIRPORT, ARGYLL RD.
FREE ADMISSION TEL: 01761 432843 FOR DETAILS.

LONDON PROPERTY

ZIGGURAT

SAFFRON HILL, CLERKENWELL, EC1

A fusion of classic style, impeccable specification, and prime location.

Loft apartments
up to 1,250 square feet
£115,000 - £265,000

A masterpiece of 1930's Industrial Art Deco design, the Ziggurat on Saffron Hill has been transformed to provide a superb development of large loft apartments.

Each loft has been fitted to the highest specification including kitchen, bathroom, solid wood strip flooring, lighting and heating.

Internally the column based lofts are left without the limitation of partition walls, enabling the freedom of open plan living, or easy sub-division according to personal needs.

40 lofts sold in just two weekends
last 15 now available!

For advance details call Brochureline till 8pm tonight.

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ARE YOU Visiting London? Central Estates have quality flats and houses in Central London for long or short term rentals. 0171 224 3773.

A Selection of luxury Flats & Houses SW1/SW3/SW7. Long/Short. Vogue 0171 730 7775

BAYSWATER Just redecor 2 bd flat, gge, 2 bth marble fl, balcony, porter, lux rec, gch w/m/d £350pw 07050 616 197 t

BAYSWATER 1 bd flat newly decor furn/unfurn spac rec dble bed porter balcony £260pw 07050 616 197t

CHELSEA SW3 beautiful FF. 1 dble bed apt opp new Kinsbird restaurant long/short lease £300+pw neg. 0171 386 7967

CENTRAL nr Regents Park W1. Delightful furn flat, d/bed, lounge, f/f kit, bthrm, lux block, short or med let, avail now £235pw incl. 0171 935 1346

CHESSON RD, W14. Luxury unfurnished 3 bed, en suite bath, sep shwr, fabulous kitchen diner, large drawing room, private garden, £500pw. Marcus Kemp 0171 384 1909

CLAPHAM PARK SW4: 2 / 3 bed townhouse in private close. £250 pw. 0181 674 2932.

CITY - Lux lge bnd new 2bd 2 bth FF, gym, plngtnr Tube fr £300pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

COUNTY HALL spb 1 bed, beautifully furn flt, gym/pool. 24hr sec. £290pw. 0171 738 7679

COVENT GDN New lux lge 2 bd FF, pkg, port, nr tube. £290pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

NR HYDE PARK Luxury serviced 2 bed apt. Short/Long stay £375pw+. Call Landlord. 0171 794 6702/ 0956 286272

DOCKLANDS high quality, 2 bed, furn flat, new carpe, fittings & furniture, lge lounge with op/plan superb mod kit & balc with views over are communal gdns £300 pw call Jo 01992 571176 or 0467 261755

CHISWICK W4
Furnished town house overlooking manse and playing field
4 bed for 3 bed plus furnished study with 3 telephone lines). Extra large living/dining room, 2 bathrooms, pretty patio garden, 2 car garage plus off street parking for 3 cars.
21 mins to Waterloo. Close to Tennis/Sports club. £580pw minimum 1 year. Short hold tenancy.
Tel/Fax:0181 9956716.
Avail early July.

HAMPSTEAD Swiss Cottage 2 bght dbl bd fit spac rec, new dec, gge, elegant furn, £330pw inc heat 07050 616 197 t

HAMPSTEAD South Hill Park. Studio flat, room with Kitchen through archway. Entrance hall, book shelfs, Shower WC, £180 pw.Tel:0171 4310152

RIVERSIDE BELVEDERE, SW1. A 2 bed, 2 bath apt in this new Berkeley Home Develop. Avail furned unfurn. Underground parking. £475.00 pw. Halifax 0171 924 6992

FULHAM 3 bedrm f/f refurb mais. Bathrm + shwr rm, cllkrm, share gdn. £360 pw. 0181 876 1832.

PUTNEY
Attractive, furnished 2 bedroom maisonette near tube & rail
£840 pcm
available early July medium term and non-smoker preferred
01323 721951 (evenings)

WEST HAMPSTEAD
A spacious and stunning 1st floor mansion flat with 3 large double bedrooms, elegant drawing room with French windows and south facing balcony, fully equipt kitchen/diner, 2 bathrooms. Newly decorated, carpeted and furnished. Close transport and amenities of West Hampstead and Finchley Road. £420pw
Tel:0181 2081328

HARLEY ST adjoining 2nd flr Pied a Terre/Studio flat £235pw Exc Furn 0171 935 1744

HOLLAND PARK Superb furn period 3 dble bed house. Only £695pw. 0181 741 2224 AHP

HIGHGATE N6, Super 2 bed flat. C.gdn, American shower. Parking, £175pw, 0181 3407408.

LANCASTER GATE studio flat. 5m tube, incl htng, W/M. Avail end Jun. £135pw 01344-890984.

HYDE PARK smart sq. huge s/c flat, new decor, 2 bdrm, nr tube, £400pw. Tel: 0171 602 5941.

MARBLE ARCH Lux lge 3 bd 3 bth FF, port, nr tube. £540pw. City Lets Int 0171 488 1458

KNIGHTSBRIDGE attractive 'pied a terre', patio view, £160pw, ref req. Tel: 0171 584 9429

KNIGHTSBDG quiet 1 bd flt, sep dine, kit, 1 min Harrods, £320-£350 unfurn/furn, sv sht/lg term Tel 0171 8238116 or 0589 972850(m)

MAIDA VALE-Lux lge brd new 1 & 2 bd,pkg, nr Tube, £250-400pw City Lets 0171 488 1458

PIMLICO SW1. 2 dble bd flat, bth, bglr rec new decor, fit kit w/m/d, gch f/f, £280pw 07050 616 197 t

NW3 Light freshly decorated 2 bed flat with gge. Unfurn/Furn. £325 pw. 0171 373 0033

RICHMOND Elegant freshly dec 1st flr 2 bed flat with beautiful River view + pvt pkng. Unfurn /Furn £456 pw 0171 373 0033

RICHMOND Purpose built 1bd flat, furnished, pkg, 5 mins stn, £165 pw.Tel:0181 8984388

S KEN Garden Square: Attractive furn studio flat (wash/ dry) inmac £165pw 0171 373 0667

ST JOHNS WOOD Executive flat. Elegant recep, 3 bd, 2 bth, gge, port, £900pw. 0171 586 9842

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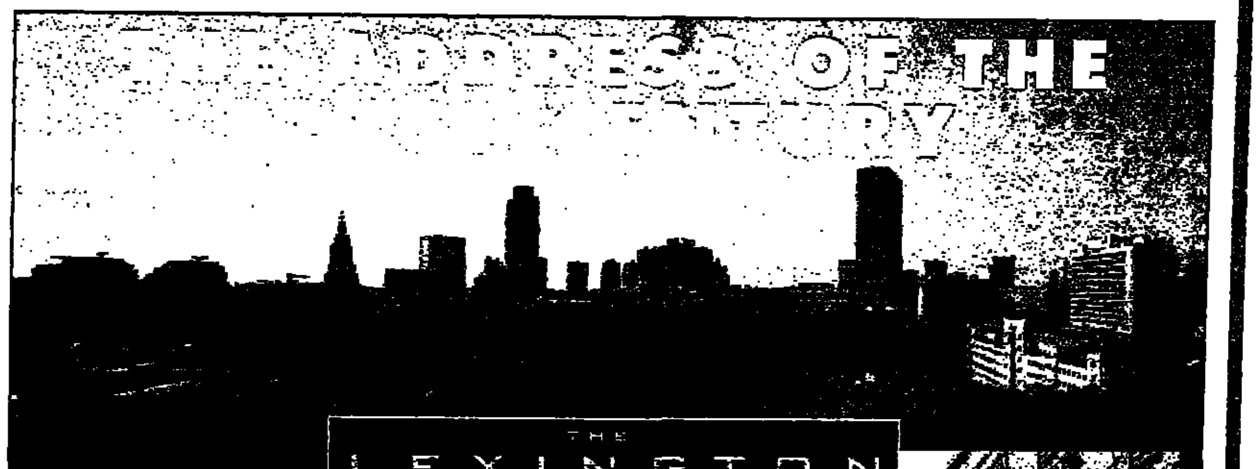

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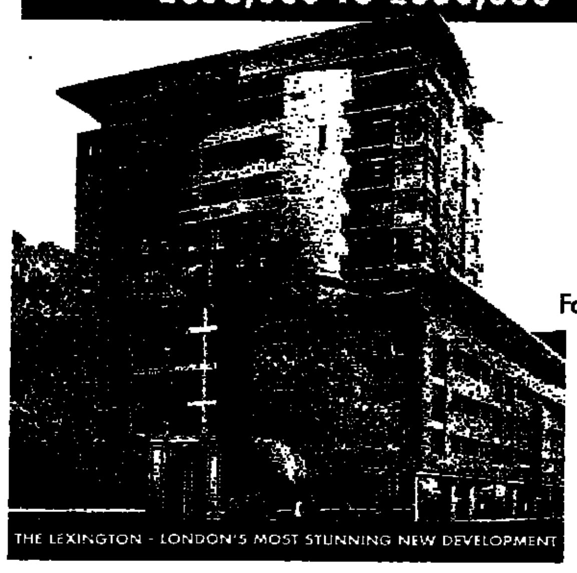

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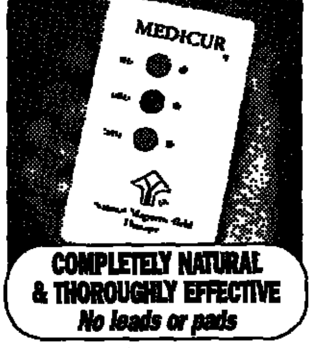

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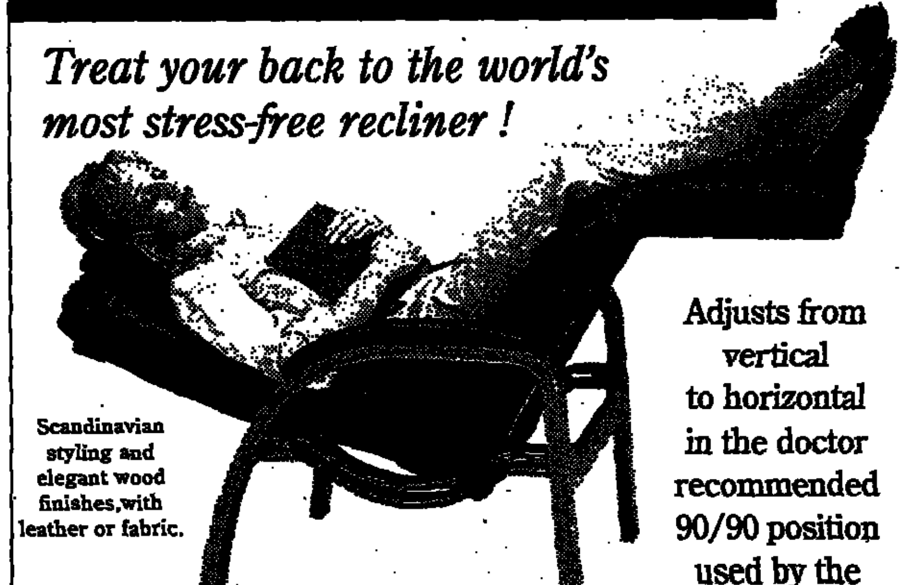

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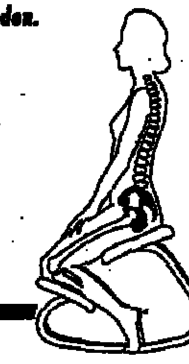

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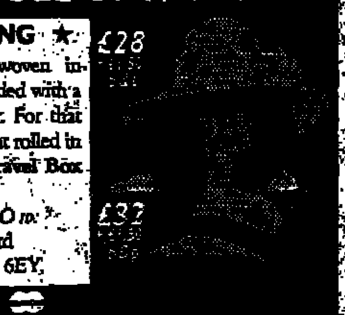

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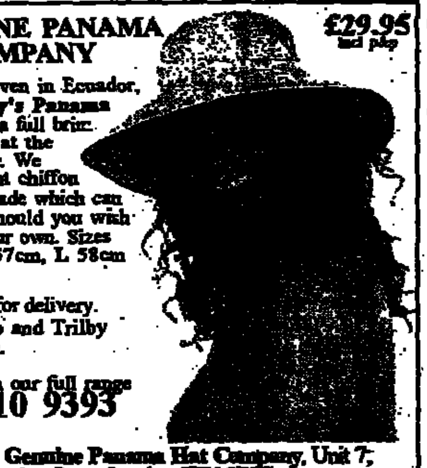

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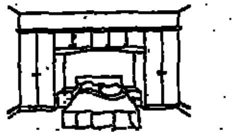

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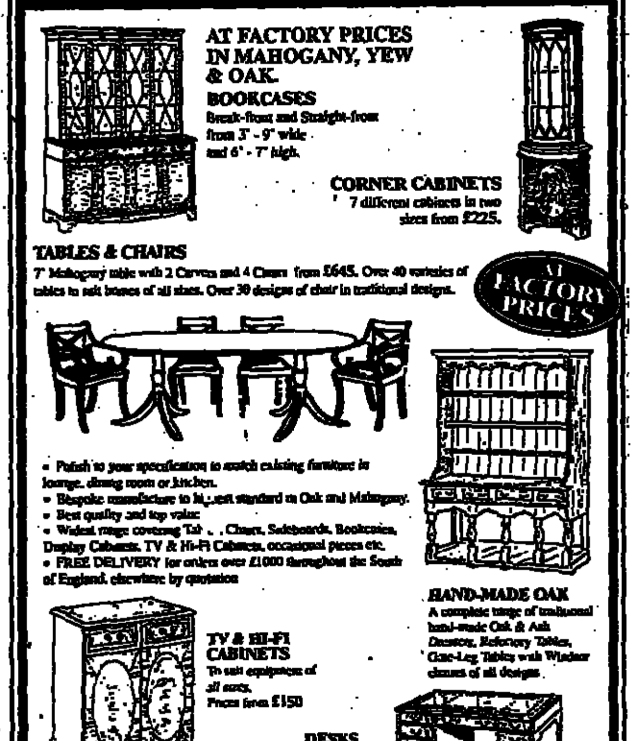

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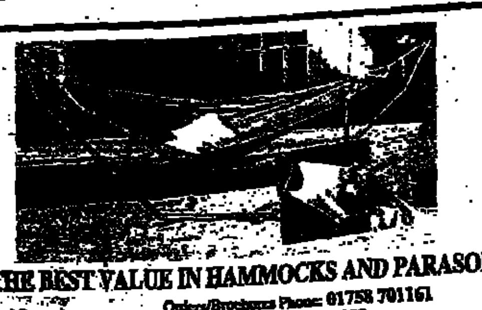

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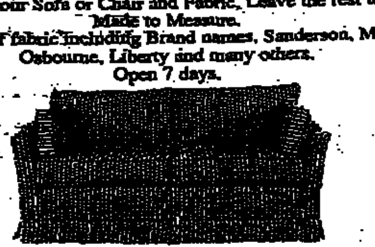

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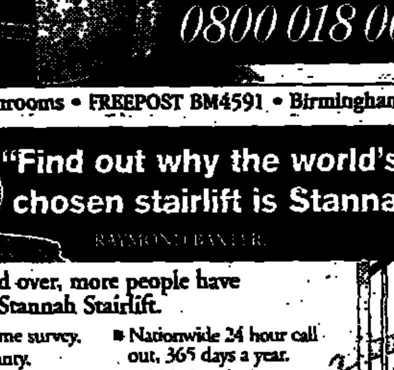

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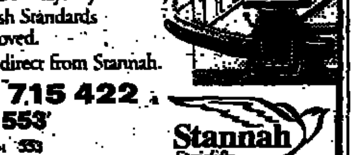

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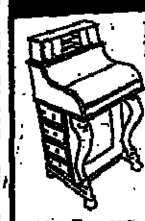

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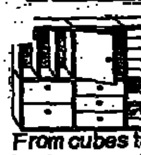

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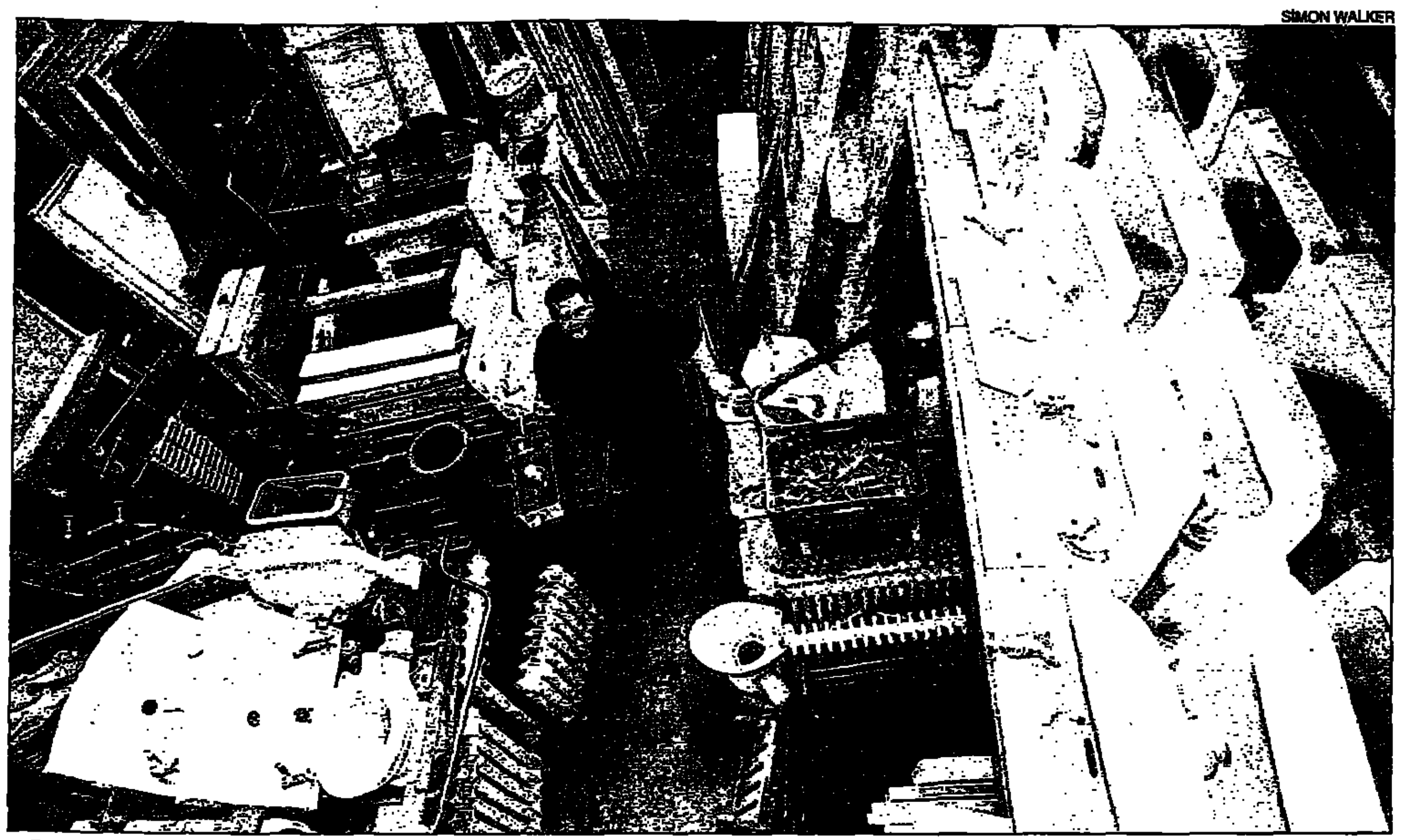
A phone box for a fish tank

Today's salvage yards sell us the household fittings we used to pay to have ripped out

SIMON WALKER



Barry Speed at his architectural salvage yard in north London. "There is a huge market for the furniture and fittings we rip out"

The first visit to an architectural salvage yard can be overwhelming — partly because it is strange to find familiar objects looking totally out of place. There are sinks without taps and taps without sinks, rows of radiators and piles of loos alongside red letterboxes.

Architectural salvage is becoming increasingly popular as a source of quality furniture and fittings that are hard to find or would cost a fortune elsewhere.

Barry Speed and Rod Philpin established the Architectural Salvage Centre in North London seven years ago. Barry says: "In the early 1980s Rod and I worked in the demolition trade. We used to chuck out marble fireplaces, rolltop baths and cast iron radiators, then burn solid old doors and quality wood flooring. It was an environmental nightmare. About ten years ago more people became interested in restoring period features in their homes and we realised there was a market for the furniture and fittings we were ripping out. Now we pay to pull out the radiators, doors and floors they used to give us money to take away."

Barry has plenty of regular customers, including many architects and interior designers. Apart from doors, radiators and sinks he sells a wide range of unusual artefacts and receives many strange requests. He says: "We have sold oak and teak laboratory units for use as kitchen work benches, glass bricks for shower cubicles and a red telephone box for use as a fish tank. A fishmonger recently bought an old mortuary slab which he felt was the ideal worktop for displaying his oysters."

Some salvage yards specialise in products ranging from antique lighting to kitchenalia. If you are after a particular item or want details of salvage yards in your area contact Salvo. This company produces Salvo packs — regional guides to good salvage yards with information on their products. Nearly all salvage stores stock a good range of column radiators, doors and sinks and if you can see the potential through the dust and flaking paint it is possible to buy stylish and affordable fittings.

A word of warning, however. Nearly everything for sale in a salvage yard is much heavier than it looks. Decide where you want radiators and baths to be placed when they are delivered as they are hard to shift. Though Barry insists he has muscles of steel and this is essential in his trade, even he has had his problems. "On one occasion I was delivering a Royal Mail red letterbox and it weighed a ton," he says. "The customer assured me there would be people around to help get it into the house, but they had all disappeared when I arrived. In the end we left the mail box in the front garden and I saw it there six months later. Finally the owner had to tip it on its side because people had started posting letters in it."

JOYCE BLAKE

● *The Architectural Salvage Centre, 30-32 Stamford Road, London N1 (0171-923 0783). Walcot Reclamation Architectural Antiques. 108 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BG (01225 444404). Salvo packs available from Salvo, Ford Woodhouse, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2QF (01668 216494).*

NEW IDEAS FOR OLD FITTINGS

COLUMN RADIATORS

Most people will remember column radiators from school or hospital visits *Joyce Blake writes.* In these settings they may have looked fairly utilitarian, but if they are repainted they can become a striking feature in a modern or period property.

Salvaged column radiators that have been sandblasted will range in price from £100-£200. This is about the same cost as a modern white panel radiator. Column radiators can be plumbed into a central heating system as simply as modern ones. If your plumber raises objections it is worth getting a second opinion. He may not be familiar with traditional radiators or cannot be bothered to handle them because they are extremely heavy.

It is possible to have radiators pressure tested for leaks at a cost of £10-£30 per radiator.

Most old radiators will need to be stripped and shotblasted to remove the old paint. Nearly all salvage yards offer this service. Once the radiators are stripped, there are several options for paint or varnish finishes. The radiators could simply have a coat of clear lacquer and will then be the colour of gun metal — this finish is a good option for old radiators in a modern home. If you want a metallic bronze or gold finish use Ardenbrite which is suitable for radiators and does not inhibit the heat performance. For a paint finish use specialist radiator enamels which come in a variety of colours.

STYLISH SINKS

Chunky, porcelain Butler or Belfast sinks are another good buy from the salvage yard. These range from £20 for one with cracks or chips, suitable for garden plants, up to £60 for a sink in good condition. They are expensive to repair so find an undamaged one if you want to use it in a kitchen or bathroom.

OPENING NEW DOORS

Most salvage yards will strip and wax doors. If you want to open up two rooms and would like dividing doors, find the doors before you make the hole.

There are often ornate, good quality dividing doors to be found at salvage yards but it is much easier to find the perfect doors if they don't need to be an exact size. Nowadays, a lot of salvage comes from closed down hospitals and institutions and the doors are far more substantial than most new ones.

For customers who are worried about security Mr Speed recommends the doors taken from psychiatric institutions. They are not particularly attractive but are made of pitch pine with solid reinforced glass and are virtually indestructible.

Salvage yards are also good places to buy old brass door handles and locks which cost little more than you would pay for new, thinner brass ones.

PROPERTY PROFILE: SHROPSHIRE

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Attractions: Shropshire is Housman country. Agents wax lyrical about the unspoilt countryside in the property hotspots of the Church Stretton, Wenlock, Bridgnorth triangle. Wenlock Edge and Long Mynd lure intrepid walkers; the splendid bridge across the Severn at Ironbridge draws crowds.

Also appealing is the county town, Shrewsbury, and Ludlow to the south, with its 11th-century castle which doubles as an open-air theatre during the summer Ludlow Festival. Good links to the M6 for Manchester and Birmingham and beyond, via the M54.

The market: Guy Bielby of Halls reckons prices have risen by 5 to 7 per cent this year, with shortages across the board. The market is warm rather than hot, according to Tim Jessop of Knight Frank, who cleared out his stock of houses at the beginning of the year and reckons there are three buyers for every prime property. There were signs of recovery last spring after prices fell between 20 and 30 per cent during the recession, says agent Cooper Green.

Expect to pay: Between £200,000 and £250,000 for a period four-bedroom farmhouse, according to Mr Bielby, or £250,000 to £350,000 if it has a large acreage; medium-sized country houses are going for £150,000 to £250,000 with particular shortages around Shrewsbury.

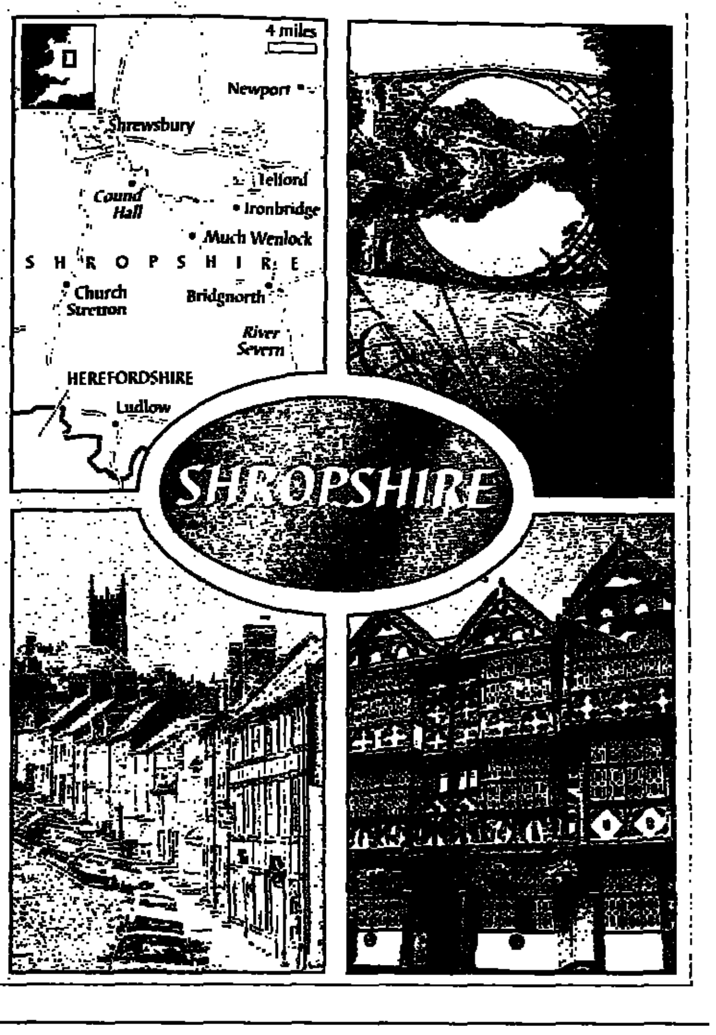
A three-bedroom cottage can still be picked up for £70,000, but can go for up to £150,000. Second home owners are firmly back in the market with strong demand from along the Welsh borders.

Major sales: Grade I listed Cound Hall was the catch of the season last year. Six miles east of Shrewsbury, the Queen Anne house, reckoned to be one of the finest in the county, sold for close to the £775,000 guide price, despite needing complete restoration, through Knight Frank.

Outlook: Agents are cautiously optimistic. Good but not crazy is Mr Jessop's prediction, with a healthy outlook for buyers and sellers. Daphne Cadogan of Stacks Relocation reckons prices will continue to climb slowly and steadily and demand will exceed supply.

AMANDA LOOSE

● *Next week: East Sussex*



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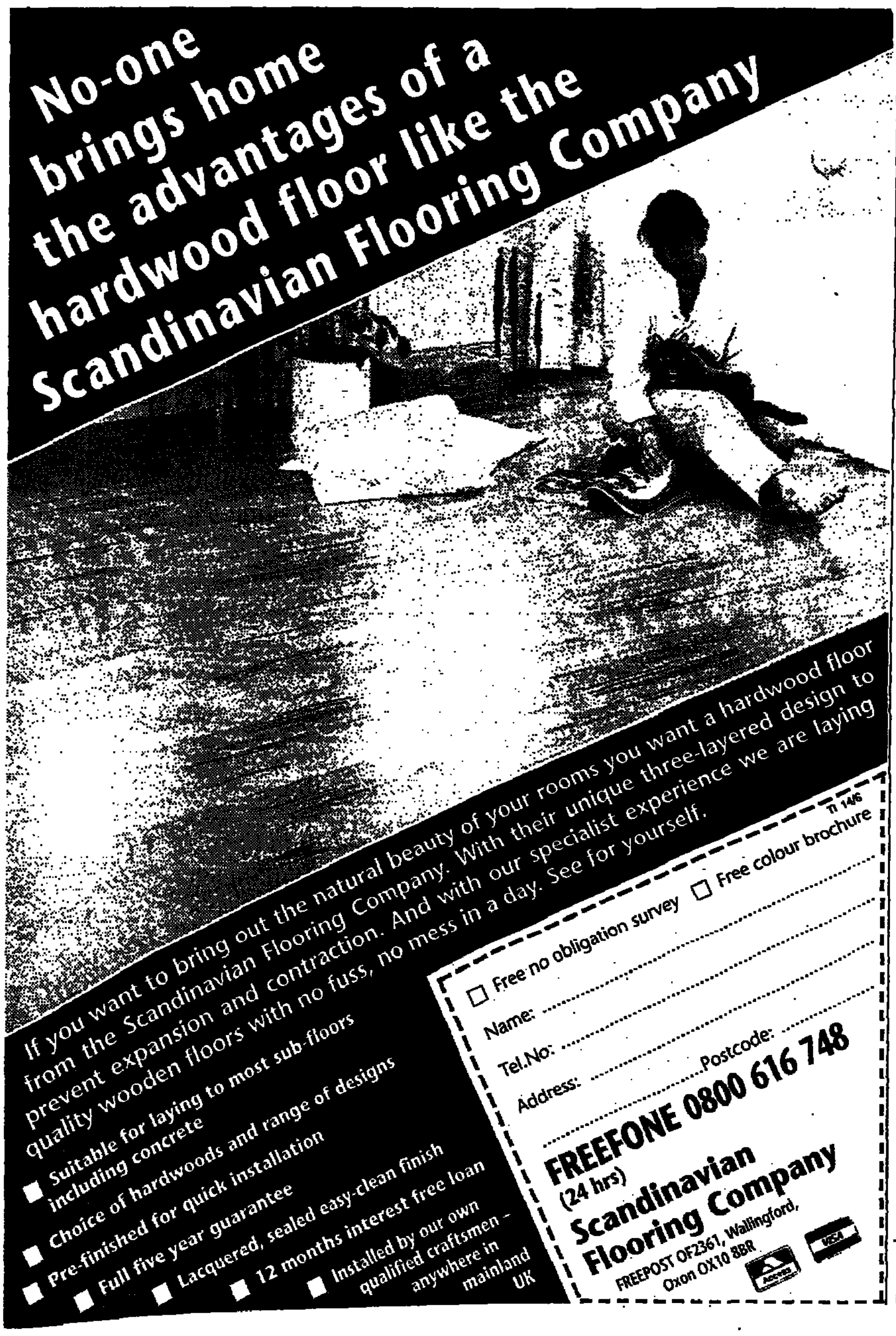
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Echoes of forgotten English

Tom Rhodes hears the authentic sound of Shakespeare on an American island

It is a quiet Saturday afternoon on Ocracoke Island, off the coast of North Carolina, but the rowdy banter inside James Barrie Gaskill's fishing shanty is worthy of Falstaff's favourite tavern in Eastcheap. James Wynn is playing ballads on his guitar. Don Woods is thumbing the gutbucket, his makeshift double bass. And the other four men, numerous bottles of whisky already sunk, are shouting at each other in the native brogue.

"I tell you ol' buck, in twenty years toime, the diffrence'll be the old place'll be run by rich 'uns and we'll be out," says James Barrie, his weatherbeaten face and drooping moustache almost a parody of the pirates who inhabited this stretch of coast in the early 18th century.

The dialect he uses, spattered with an arcane vocabulary heard nowhere else, is the closest surviving language to Elizabethan English. And if James Barrie cuts a Falstaffian figure, the others would easily pass for Pistol, Shallow and Bardolph, a happy band of rogues who drink regularly and play poker into the early hours. Seemingly untainted by the social mores of feminist America, they talk of wenching and dismiss their wives from such gatherings.

But the sentiment described by James Barrie is one felt by all. Mostly in their fifties or older, they belong to a dwindling clan of 300 ancestral O'cockers able to trace their heritage back to the community's foundation in 1715. More importantly, they are the very few who can still speak the dialect.

Salvation for the isolated island's heritage now rests with a group of researchers from North Carolina State University at Raleigh who have launched a campaign to save the Ocracoke dialect. Walt Wolfram, an English professor, and Natalie Schilling-Estes, a doctor of linguistics, have tracked the language from its roots in Middle and Elizabethan English, through the influences of the earliest 16th and 17th-century British settlers in Virginia and Pennsylvania to today.

Their book, *Hoi Toide on the Outer Banks*, is a labour of love, a dictionary of the brogue and an enlightening explanation of the evolution of language. Hours of interviews with the island's elders have produced an extraordinary lexicon, ranging from the still regular term "mommuck" (to harrass or bother) which appears in Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, to "pizer" (a porch), borrowed from the Italian *piazza*, and "dingbatter" (outsider), a phrase apparently derived from the 1970s American sit-com *All in the Family*, which demonstrates how television has influenced the language.

During five years of research, Wolfram and Schilling-Estes invited Peter Trudgill, the prominent British dialectologist, to sample the speech of the islanders. He took a series of tapes back to England and played them to a group of 15 randomly selected people in Essex. The listeners were unanimous in identifying England as the origin of the Ocracoke speaker; more specifically, almost all recognised the regional accent of the West Country, although two suggested East Anglia and one Derbyshire.

HERMAN LANKFORD

Rex O'Neal discusses the vanishing dialect with Natalie Schilling-Estes and Walt Wolfram; top, James Gaskill and son Morton

"In American terms this dialect is very exciting," says Trudgill. "In Britain you can travel 20 miles and hear a different dialect. On the America East coast you can go 150 miles and not notice any difference. The islanders have been told they should be ashamed by it. That it is wrong, inadmissible, and assumes that standard English is the thing. It is very unusual compared with American English."

So why, in the face of modern life, should the locals be encouraged to preserve their archaic way of speaking? "The people want to be able to speak and write in the standard form because they have to go off the island. But it's a cultural treasure. It needs to be a living treasure and not a museum piece. I have a love of diversity and this dialect adds to our linguistic richness."

Until the 1950s, the distinct language had remained largely intact. The island's inhabitants rarely visited mainland America, and few tourists made the journey by boat to a fishing community that boasted scant housing and only dirt roads. The brogue acted as a unifying force for locals and a deterrent for outsiders unable to understand such quaint archaisms as "fladget" (a piece of something), "begombed" (to be soiled or smeared), "airish" (a stiff breeze), or "quamish" (queasy).

Within decades, however, Ocracoke has attracted ever greater numbers of visitors to its sandy beaches, deep sea fishing and historical ties to piracy; Edward Teach, the notorious Blackbeard, died in the Battle of Ocracoke Inlet. Young islanders long ago recognised that the financial rewards of tourism far outstripped the benefits of a special language and culture. Only a handful have taken any interest in the brogue, and most are irritated when curious visitors command them to speak Elizabethan.

"The language has been badly swamped — by tourists and by people coming in from outside. I imagine it's doomed in the next 20 years," says Trudgill.

Wolfram, who initially studied language to become a missionary, now sees himself as the dialect's saviour. He lectures young islanders at the Ocracoke school and the small cottage museum near the harbour displays his research as its mainstay. But the academics admit they are fighting an uphill battle and expect the language will be all but extinct within one generation.

"There is a lot of intermarriage off the island now and most people make a living from visitors," says Wolfram. "It's one of those double edged swords; the O'cockers could not live on the island without the tourists and yet the very same tourists have destroyed their historical heritage."

The efficient ferry system has increased access to the mainland to such an extent that most young islanders now seek entertainment further afield. Even Larry Thompson, headmaster of the school, is expected to attend staff meetings two hours away across the Pamlico Sound. David Esham, owner of a local motel and a resolute brogue speaker, remembers a time when the island had the only mounted scout troop in the United States. Rex O'Neal, a carpenter and fisherman, recalls when locally brewed cornmeal wine in five-gallon flagons was the only alcohol available on Ocracoke.

> 'The people want to be able to speak and write in the standard form because they have to go off the island. But it needs to be a living cultural treasure, not a museum piece'

"I'm not saying it's changed for the worse, but it was more peaceful in the old days," says Rex, the first of his 11 siblings to be born off the island. "It was a time when everybody helped their neighbours with anything they needed. A lot of that's left us now." The names of his ancestors and of Williams, Howard, Willis and Gaskins, litter the local cemetery. Many probably died in the turbulent waters known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic; a small neighbouring plot contains four British seamen whose ship, *HMS Bedfordshire*, was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1942.

The annual hoisting of a Union Jack above their graves attracts a wide audience of islanders — but the fluttering flag donated by Plymouth, England, merely serves as the most strident reminder of Ocracoke's fading links to its true British past.

Hoi Toide on the Outer Banks by Walt Wolfram and Natalie Schilling-Estes is published by the University of North Carolina Press. Information on UNC books is on the World Wide Web at: http://sunsite.unc.edu/uncpress/

Christian Dymond on the amazing survival of donkey twins

What has eight legs and two nationalities?

Four months ago the chances of donkey twins Tim and Audrey ever chasing each other around the field or cuddling up at night together were practically zero.

Audrey would have survived but Tim came into the world 36 hours after his sister, delivered by Caesarean section but he was given virtually no chance of living. Donkeys born as twins are extremely rare, those which survive are rarer still.

They are rare, like horse twins, because the uterus of a mare is only designed to carry one foetus to full term. If twins are conceived, it is common that one or even both will abort naturally.

The story of Tim and Audrey began on February 11 when their owner, Rosemary Whilton, who runs a nursery and market garden business with her parents in Wales, found that her 14-year-old donkey, Diane, had given birth to a foal. "I didn't think that Diane was feeding the youngster properly so a day later we called in our vet who discovered that there was another foal inside," says Miss Whilton.

Mr Spence also saw that Diane had sustained ruptures to her abdominal muscles while giving birth, which meant that she would not be unable to deliver the second foal without help.

Within an hour of diagnosis, Diane and the foal were taken from their Welsh home to the Philip Leverhulme Large Animal Hospital at Leahurst on Wirral, part of Liverpool University's Faculty of Veterinary Science, which deals with 1,600 cases a year, 98 per cent of them horses.

"I followed the horse box in the car and at the time I thought it would be a case of an operation to deliver a dead foal. I was very concerned and hoped that Diane would get over it as quickly as possible," says Miss Whilton.

There, the donkey was examined by Dr Chris Proudman, a lecturer in equine soft tissue surgery. Diane was then anaesthetised and for half an hour Dr Proudman tried to deliver the foal normally. When it became apparent that no progress was being made, he decided to deliver the animal by Caesarean section. At this stage he and his team were working on the assumption that the foal was dead, since no movement had been detected while he was in his mother's uterus.

But it was important for the survival of Diane that the foal was taken out as quickly as possible.

"With the help of a couple of veterinary students the foal was delivered. It was then that we saw some signs of life, a little stirring in the legs and some weak respiratory movement," says Dr Proudman.

It was imperative to clear the foal's airways of uterine fluid and, as its lungs were collapsed, start giving it oxygen by rubber tube through the nose. Tim was "intubated" for the first eight hours of his life and given a four-pint plasma transfusion, derived from his father's and brother's blood.

The first 48 hours were crucial. Vet Cathy Walsh organised intensive care — lasting a week — in Tim's padded room. He was encouraged to suckle from a bottle and to stand on his own. Tim had been deprived of his mother's milk, which during the first 24 hours after birth contains large quantities of antibodies. So the hospital fed him colostrum instead — milk high in antibodies.

Miss Whilton says: "I was shocked when I first saw Tim, although looking at him now you wouldn't think he'd been such a sick donkey but the vet and all the hospital staff have been brilliant."

Four days after his birth, Tim was suckling and standing. "I didn't expect him to survive but they did a wonderful job in intensive care," says Dr Proudman.

He went home with his mother and sister when he was ten days old, and for the first week or so was bottle fed round the clock with a mare's milk replacer, a special powder mixed with water.

As Audrey will be fed from her mother for the next four months, Tim will have to be bottle fed six pints a day.

The twins are now pretty evenly balanced in size. There is one difference, however. Audrey, having been born at home, is Welsh. Tim, being born at Leahurst, is English.

● *Large Animal Hospital, Leahurst, Neston, South Wirral, L64 7TE. Tel: (0151-794 6033).*

ROB BODMAN

Rosemary Whilton with her father George and Tim and Audrey, now four months old

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A VET WRITES

Q Susie, our labrador puppy, is four months old and she chews everything and anything. I'm told she's teething and will grow out of it. Can I do anything to help her through this period, and will she stop chewing when all her teeth are through?

A Dogs rarely grow out of anything. As time goes on bad habits get worse. Susie has to be taught that chewing must be restricted to her possessions. Give her some things to gnaw at. A large cooked bone, much too big to eat, will keep her occupied for hours. Big, hard dog biscuits perform the same function. When she starts to nibble anything else take it from her and offer the bone or biscuit. She'll soon learn.

Make sure she doesn't get over-possessive about her bones or toys — take the bone away from time to time to teach her that you are pack boss. She knows she will get it back because her pack boss takes care of her. Teething finishes at six months, but she will still chew when there is nothing else to do. Gnawing at the right object is a good way of passing time and hard biscuits or hide chews are excellent toothbrushes.

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

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'If you have a weakness for bad behaviour, maybe turning 40 — like the birthday card says — gives you the licence to indulge it'

Spit-roast therapy for real men

LIFE AND SOUL

GINNY DOUGARY

Last week my husband decided to acknowledge his 40th birthday with a celebration of having got this far, rather than a wake for his faded youth. Forty people gathered in the garden to feast on a lamb weighing 40lb. There were no sly nods or winks to the passage of time, other than the usual mock-gloomy messages inscribed in jaunty greetings cards. "Congratulations . . . now you can legitimately have a mid-life crisis," read one, with the rueful coda "join the club".

It was a lovely clear evening with that atmosphere of sultry expectancy which heralds the coming of a storm. At one end of the garden the air was heavy with jasmine and honeysuckle. At the other end there was the more primeval and faintly troubling sweet stink of burning flesh. The flayed lamb on its homemade spit looked rather too gruesomely like something which had once been alive — say, one of Peter Greenaway's victims — but it had been turned and cooked to perfection.

My husband had commandeered the services of a didgeridoo player called Bear whom we had first heard, some months ago, at an exhibition of Aboriginal paintings. As he entertained our guests in his inimitably touchy-feely way, blowing down his gnarled wooden tube and blasting away at their ya-yas or chakras or whatever they are called, I was wandering down the garden bearing bowls of food when I noticed a tiny pair of feet wiggling delightedly.

These, it turned out, belonged to our youngest son. He was lying beside an American couple who had gatecrashed the party and were just about the only grown-ups who were sufficiently child-like, or trusting, to be "massaged" by our entertainer.

Later, I heard Bear inviting my husband and our boys to a kind of Iron-John-in-the-Home-Counties weekend — involving "didges" and drumming and ancient father-and-son initiation rites. Not on your nelly, I thought; a sentiment which was fortunately shared by my husband. Bear would probably say that if men could only get in touch with their masculinity early on in life, they would not go completely doolally on turning 40. Is there any truth at all in this, I wonder? And, more to the point, how many men do you know who conform to this mythology?

Some men, I suspect, are a mid-life crisis waiting to happen. If you have got a weakness for bad behaviour, maybe turning 40 — like the birthday card says — gives you the licence to indulge it. But even in our very widest circle of friends, I can only think of four men who have gone off the rails at the beckoning of the halfway mark. The two bolters — dumping the wife and kids for younger women — seemed as miserable as they must occasionally, one presumes, have felt liberated, but not nearly as miserable as their rejected partners.

One friend, on turning 40, traded in a safe but boring job to set up his own business in Hong Kong. Quite a risky thing to do at the best of times — which this is clearly not — and with a wife and three small children in tow. Another friend is so profoundly in denial about growing older that he has boycotted all our 40th birthday parties — which is a shame because it means we never see him.

My husband, I have to say, is much more sanguine about being 40 than me. He sees it as a useful resting point — halfway through adulthood — rather than a downhill slope. Far from feeling that everything is on the wane, he sees himself as bang in the middle of it all — "in the prime of life . . . hitting the back straight". No more sleepless nights with young babies, no more worries about mortgages and launching a career. He feels that he can pursue his own interests in a quixotic way now, rather than fulfilling an agenda that has been set by circumstances. Just as well that we are not both suffering from the *Weltschmerz*, I suppose. But if there is one thing more depressing than no longer being able to call yourself thirtysomething, it is finding that you are married to a fortysomething.

My new old man is never happier than when he is at a party, and he loved his own. No wonder. For once our sons behaved like the angels they usually resemble only when they are asleep. The nine-year-old tinkered away melodiously at the piano until tiredness got the better of him, while his six-year old brother was an indefatigable waiter, searching all night for "the man with the big nose" who had apparently ordered a Scottish beer. But the high point of the night for their father was roasting the lamb. He is still burbling on about the atavistic pleasure of it — the suffusion of joy as you commune at the fireside in the spirit of your forefathers.

Forget Bear and Iron John: my husband has designs on becoming the guru of spit-roast therapy. You never know, it could catch on.

ALAN WELLER

Three minus one: Jane Sadler with daughters Flo and Charlotte at their farmhouse in Buckinghamshire. "I can't bear the thought of Will taking over things I'm doing now"

The challenge of living apart

How does a family survive when one of the parents has to go away for a long period because of work?

Jane Sadler felt a mixture of emotional exhaustion and elation waving husband Will off on his boat *3Com* in a force ten gale in Southampton harbour. It was the start of the BT Global Challenge yacht race and she was exhausted by the build-up to his departure and elated at what she saw as the adventure of living alone for a year.

"When I got home the phone rang and it was Will," she recalls. "I was absolutely livid and said, what are you doing ringing me? You've gone! I know it sounds unreasonable, but I'd mentally geared myself up to cope on my own."

The BT Global Challenge race is an extreme example of enforced separation, but many couples have to face living apart, usually through work commitments. For some, the strain of living separate lives can lead to a permanent split: others, like Jane and Will, are weathering the storm.

Dr Dennis Trent, a clinical psychologist, has researched the problems couples face by living separate lives — albeit temporarily. "The big problem is that in a relationship there is a symbiotic dependence," he says, "while the longer we're apart, the more we grow independent. As human beings we require extreme emotional intimacy with one person — someone we can expose our feelings to without fear of having them used against us. If that emotional intimacy is removed through separation — and it's very hard to keep it going over the phone — we look to transfer it to another person."

Sheila and Zahid Warley lived apart for seven years. They are now together in London with their son Joe, but before that Sheila stayed at home in Newcastle with Joe and her two children, Robert and Katie from her first marriage, while Zahid worked for the BBC in London.

"At the time it was the right decision, because Robert and Katie were so settled at their schools and with their friends — but I can't say it hasn't been difficult," says Sheila.

"It started off as just a temporary split, and I remember we had a big row before he went off. To me, he had a great life in London — seeing friends, eating out, having time to read — while I was coping with the mayhem of domestic life." Dr Trent says: "It's easy for resentment to build up because you idealise the other person's situation. What they're doing is unknown and therefore exciting, while you see yourself as the one with the problems. When you do get back together it's vital that couples realise it will take time to be vulnerable again, to drop your defences."

Jane Sadler has been apart from Will for the past ten months, living effectively the life of a single parent with seven-year-old Flo and 12-year-old Charlotte at their remote farmhouse in Buckinghamshire. During a visit to Will in New Zealand at Christmas their house was flooded and a lot of their furniture was ruined. She and the children had to live in a hotel for seven weeks surrounded by what could be salvaged, and then she had the trials of supervising the entire renovation of their old house and finding somewhere new to live. However, her worries lie not with the present but with the future. "To be honest, this year has been a doddle — what's going to be really difficult is the year he gets back, while we all have to readjust," she says. "He's had the freedom of sailing on the boat with no family ties, and I've had the freedom of not being answerable to anyone."

For Sheila Warley, the moment of reconciliation could also be problematic. "At the weekends he would come home expecting a big fuss, while often the kids just said, 'Hi, Dad,' and carried on watching *Neighbours*. That was hard for him, because I know he worried about us while he was away.

"If we had a row at the weekend that was very difficult, because you don't then have the time to resolve the problem naturally."

When Will was offered the chance to take part in the yacht race, Jane says there was no discussion about whether he should go: "We both saw it as a great opportunity, and we have never been possessive about each other's lives."

Other couples have felt the strain more. Tracy Capstick almost immediately expressed how resentful she felt over husband Jim taking a year out of their lives to take part in the race. Elaine Calvin had the birth of her son induced so it could take place before husband Pete left to sail on his boat. She is now coping on her own until he returns.

Jane feels she has changed in the year Will has been away. "I feel I'm stronger and I know I can cope on my own," she says. "When you're one half of a couple you learn to keep your mouth shut on certain things. While he's away I don't have that restraint."

While still missing her husband, she has found lots of benefits. "I have much more time for the children. When they get back from school I can spend time chatting with them and helping with homework," she says.

"I think we've also dealt with problems in a much calmer way because there are only the three of us. With a partner, tension develops because you're worrying what they think, and men are much more explosive when things go wrong. When you're a couple and there's a problem with one of the kids the temptation is to pass it over and say, you talk to her. But now he's gone I can't shout and scream because I have to live with them all the time. It's almost as if we need each other more because Will isn't here."

'Enforced separation highlights what's wrong in a marriage'

Sheila Warley found separation, while causing problems, did add spice to her marriage. "I made several trips to London to stay with Zahid in his flat without the kids. That was great — like having an affair without the guilt. I was never sexually jealous — Zahid is a straight and honourable person, and we spoke on the phone every day. I think in fact the separation has made our relationship stronger, but I wouldn't go back to living apart."

Jane and the children talk to Will several times a week through e-mail and faxes, and Jane has visited Will at all the ports of call — Rio, New Zealand and Cape Town. The last visit she made on her own.

"I found myself being quite reticent with Will when I visited him, because I didn't want to give too much away and be hurt. I am very emotional while Will is much more laid back. An enforced separation highlights what's wrong in your marriage, so it helps you work at avoiding those pitfalls. I long for him to come home but I am apprehensive. I can't bear the thought of him taking over things I'm doing because he feels he can do them better. We will have to be extremely tolerant of each other."

Dr Trent says: "It's vital to recognise the changes in each other and build on that, rather than feel threatened by a partner's new independence." Advice which will no doubt come in useful next month when the 155 crew on the Global Challenge yachts sail back to what could be turbulent domestic waters.

DIANA APPLEYARD

Will Sadler, right, in port during the BT Global Challenge. He returns next month

Ruth Gledhill joins pilgrims trekking through Britain

He who would valiant be

THE pilgrims progressed down the aisle, some with walking sticks, some in boots. They were all shapes, ages and sizes. There was a faint air of bemusement about them, as if dazzled by a combination of blistering sunshine, a long walk through the Wiltshire countryside and endless church services on their rapid 20th-century pilgrimage from Rome or Canterbury to Londonderry.

The pilgrimage, by bus, train and on foot, was part of the celebrations marking the joint anniversaries of saints Augustine and Columba. I met up with them mid-stream, in Malmesbury, the oldest borough in England with an abbey that was once a thriving national centre of Benedictine Christianity.

We thanked God for the lives of the two saints, and prayed for His blessing on these modern pilgrims, before a reading from Peter, chapter I. Our sermon, by the Rev Sidney Hinkes, a retired Anglican clergyman who is co-chairman of the ecumenical group, Churches Together in Malmesbury, was an apt warning to all with ambition.

Malmesbury was *once* the centre of Christian worship in ancient Wessex. The town was named after the 7th-century hermit Maidulf and the Abbey was founded in 676 by Aldhelm, who became Bishop of Sherborne when the diocese was divided in 705.

To the dismay of all in Malmesbury, Salisbury was chosen as the new centre for the eastern half when the diocese was divided. Today, Malmesbury no longer even has its own bishop. The suffragan see was renamed Swindon in 1994. But Mr Hinkes described what happened as the townsfolk reacted to their diminishing importance in church life after the events of the 8th century.

"Learn what lessons you can from this place," he told the pilgrims, pointing out that there were Christians in Malmesbury before Augustine ever set foot on English soil. "Malmesbury never forgot and never forgave. All through the Middle Ages, Malmesbury had to prove that anything Salisbury could do, Malmesbury could do better. This included building a spire. Malmesbury had to have a taller spire than Salisbury, which you recall is the tallest in England. This pride led to a fall. The spire collapsed in 1480, destroying the abbey east of the wall. What remains is one-third of the ancient glory. *The disastrous construction* of that spire was an act of ecclesiastical rivalry."

He warned: "Brothers and sisters, we are still not free of ecclesiastical rivalry. Our denominations are still fiercely defensive of their status with the realm. For mission, a church needs unity." After prayers from members of the local evangelical King's Church, the Roman Catholic and the United Reformed church, the pilgrims seemed transformed from an exhausted body suffering from a *surfeit of religion* to a *lively* group with renewed enthusiasm for their progress.

Worship at Malmesbury

● *Malmesbury Abbey, Malmesbury, Wiltshire (01666 832426).*

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ARCHITECTURE: Present abbey built in 12th century, sadly truncated, being one third its original size. ★★★

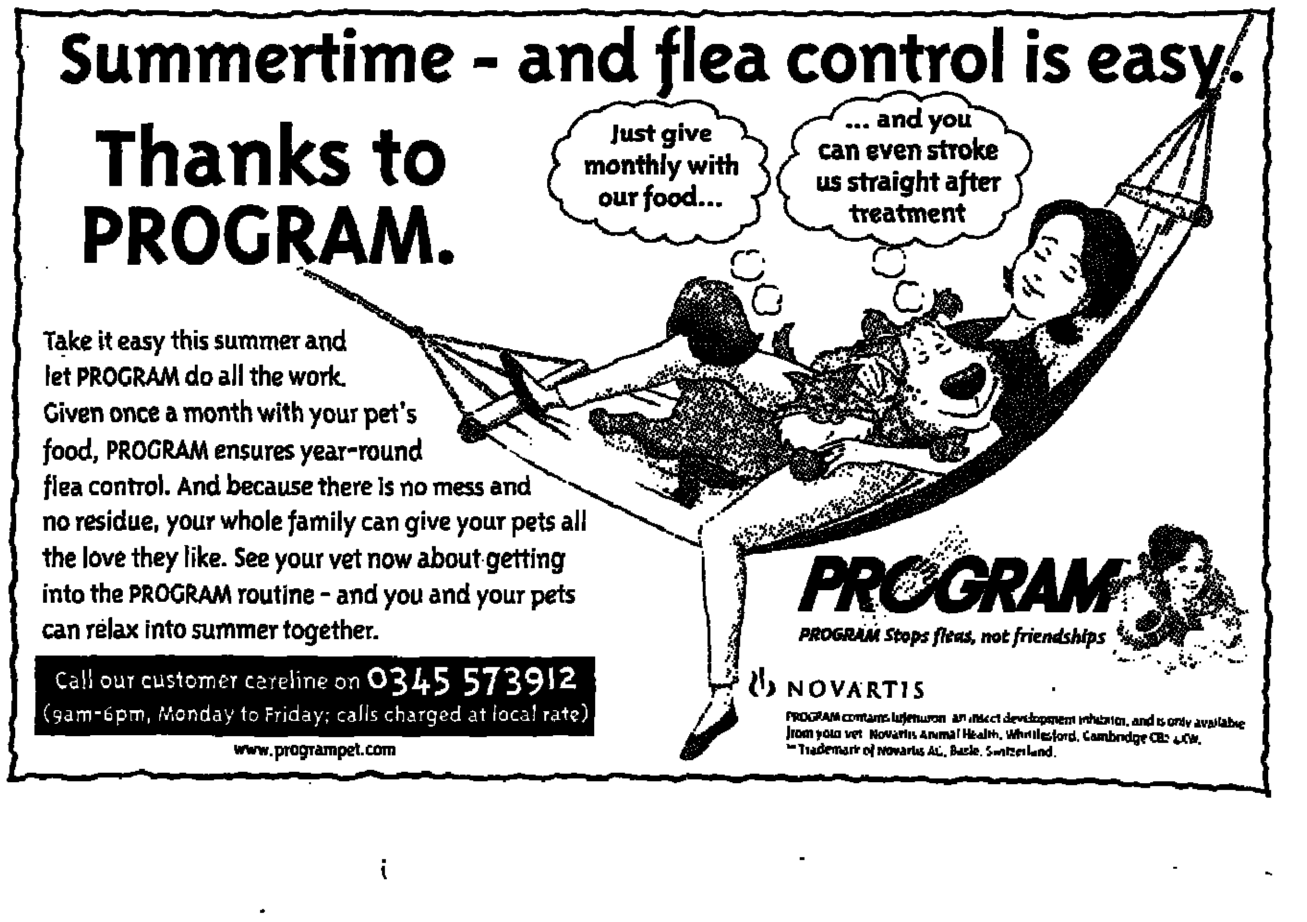
SERMON: Impressive homily on how pride invariably comes before a fall ★★★★

MUSIC: Mixed choir led us through the traditional hymns. ★★★

LITURGY: Reading, hymns, prayers and blessing ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Humbling experience. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Refreshments were served in the south aisle. ★★★★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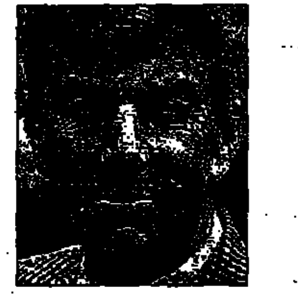
DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

There follows an appeal to the old swingers among you. It comes with a health warning, but please read on.

It is the height of the grass-cutting season, when large proportions of the population trundle up and down their lawns trying to keep one step ahead of the grass.

The grass is, of course, trying to flower and set seed, and so is packed with protein and general goodness; which is why farmers will shortly be cutting their meadows with the intention of making hay. But most people make nothing but clippings, either by the use of a mower or a petrol-driven strimmer which whirls a nylon line at a deadly speed slaying everything before it.

Many years ago, when new to country life, I tried to lend my new strimmer to an old boy who was standing deep in a ditch, sickle in hand, slashing away at the lush growth which would otherwise choke the ditch.

I felt sorry for him, poor old man: on a pension, a humble sickle was all he could afford. And there I was in my comparative affluence with my shiny, new red strimmer. I might as well have offered the devil a clove of garlic. He and his sickle were a marriage of many years standing and he had no intention of being unfaithful with a flighty little engine-driven thing. In my naivety, I thought this to be somewhat of a Luddite attitude, till I watched his progress and compared it with mine.

He had done ten yards while I was still pulling at the cord; he was another 20 yards farther ahead by the time I was back from the garage with more petrol. He got plenty of exercise, and he did not return home deaf and choking from an afternoon spent with 100cc of best Japanese two-stroke stuffed up his earhole.

That was when I learnt the value of the properly designed and skilfully used hand tool, and I have been a devotee of them ever since. The greatest of the cutting tools is the scythe: fiendishly simple to look at, desperately difficult to master. The great 19th-century agriculturalist Henry Stephens offered a beautiful and precise description of the blade of a scythe when he called it "the curve of least exertion", by which he meant that the blade was shaped so as to require minimum effort for maximum effect.

Where I would part company with Stephens is use of the word "least" in association with the exertion. My early attempts to swing a scythe were sweaty, bad-tempered affairs made bloody by cuts sustained in fumbling attempts to sharpen the blade.

It is easy for a beginner to imagine that one uses it with a slashing motion, beating the grass into submission. But watch an experienced scyther and you will see him glide the blade through the grass, cutting it well down the stalk so that the blade of grass does not sense the blade coming towards it, and is taken by surprise. There is no flailing of the arms as in some Jane Fonda-style aerobic exercise, but rather a gentle swing from the hips that achieves the desired effect with the minimum effort, as Stephens described.

Which raises the question — are there any experienced scythers left? Any men or women who can grasp the snaith, as the handle is called, and swish their way through a field of corn or a meadow of hay as was done season after season not may generations ago?

If there are, I would like to hear from them. It is time scything skills were revitalised, not only for the general health of the nation (for it would undoubtedly have both medical and environmental approval) but to ensure that the day never dawns when the last working scythe in Britain is finally hung on the wall of the barn and forgotten. So I am proposing a contest — a Grand Scything Match, open to all.

It will be held in the eastern counties in the early autumn and, in anticipation of your willingness to take part, a kind farmer has sown a small field of upstanding wheat. It will be this which you will be required to scythe, and your partner will have to bundle it into sheaves and tie it with a band of twisted straw in the old-fashioned manner. Somewhere, somehow, I shall find a judge who can assess the subtleties of this art, and there will be a prize. Possibly a free course of orthopaedic treatment following the match. We are already fortunate in having a sponsor. In the once great steel-making city of Sheffield, Burgon & Ball is still making scythes using techniques that Victorians would recognise, because there is no better way to make them. Deceptively simple in appearance, a scythe needs to be set and tuned as carefully as any concert cello. There is the angle of the blade to consider, the position of the two handles, all needing to be adjusted to the height of the operator, and the sharpness of the blade, which needs honing to the point where surgeons would be fearful of it.

Burgon & Ball will supply the scythe some weeks in advance so that serious competitors can tune them to concert pitch. All we need now are the scythers.

You will get your leg pulled, and as you walk through your town or village they will shout "Old Father Time!" and "Here comes the grim reaper!". But you will be preserving a little bit of agricultural history and, I hope, having fun in the process.

We have corn enough for a maximum of six competitors. Any old or aspiring swingers out there should drop me a line without delay.

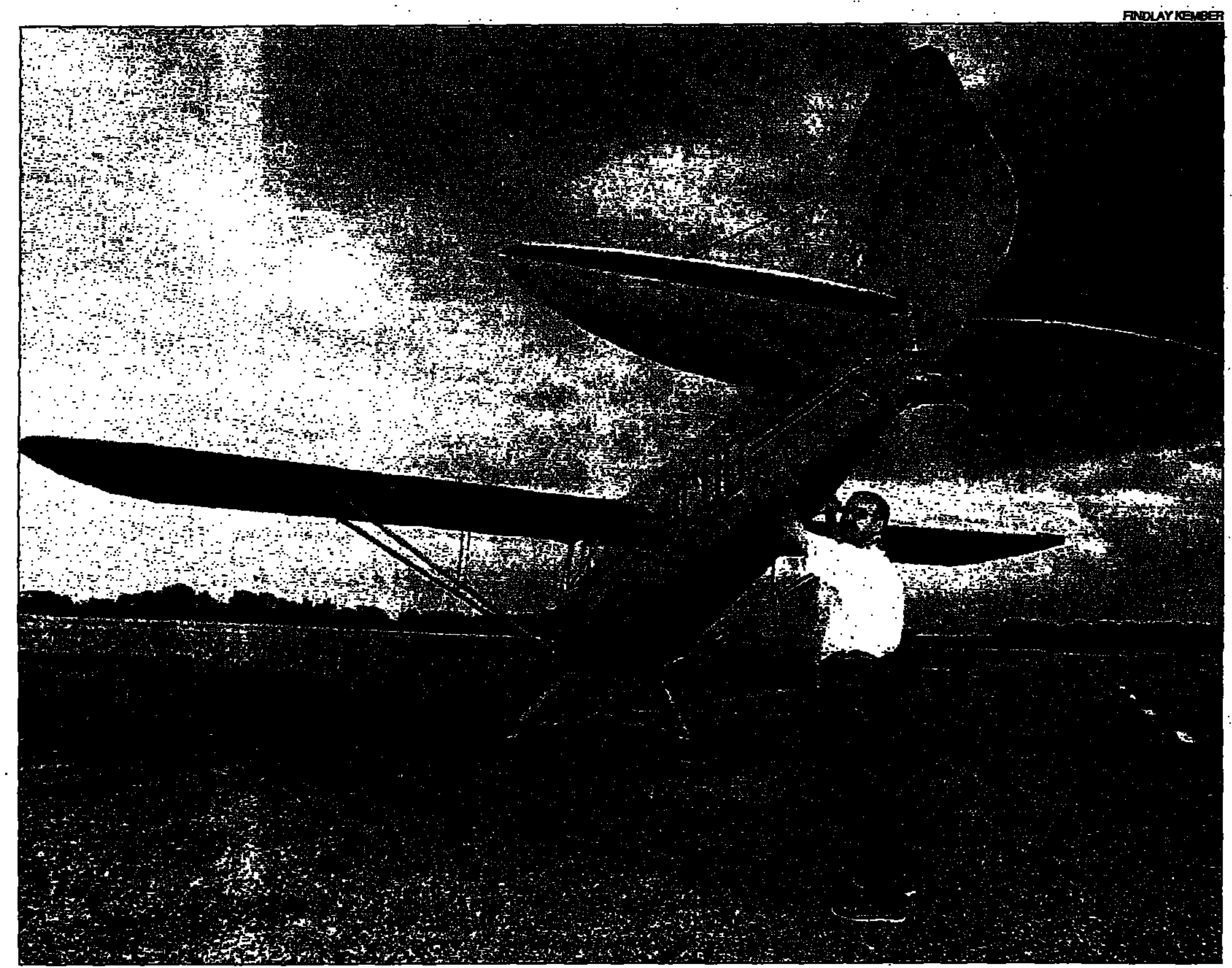
Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters [illegible] Street, London E1 9XN

The new battle of Britain

Small airfields are too noisy, say locals. But fliers are keen to keep them going, says

Eve-Ann Prentice

FINDLAY KEMBER



Veteran pilot John Jordan (above left) thinks restrictions are ridiculous. Instructor Kevin Dennington, above, insists that noise complaints are taken seriously

Among the rolling farmland of East Anglia, beneath the skies where much of the Battle of Britain was fought, a new conflict is taking place. The argument is between men — and women — in flying jackets, and villagers who say they cannot abide the noise of aircraft taking off and landing at rural airfields, shattering the peace.

Simmering resentments came to the boil after a local council approved planning guidelines which the pilots say are likely to become the blueprint for other authorities. According to national flying groups, the policy could lead to the closure of small airfields all over the country, some of which played a pivotal role in the Second World War.

The aviators accuse a small number of townies of moving to the countryside expecting to find a rural idyll, then failing to live and let live when the reality is not perfection. The issue is causing the sort of bitter divisions for which rural communities can be notorious, where the protagonists know one another and gossip can get the better of fact.

The aviators fall over themselves to put their side of the story. The villagers, however, including parish and district councillors, are reluctant to criticise their adversaries in public. In pubs and village shops, fighting talk runs along the lines of "I'd like to string them up", or "They think they own the earth, but they are a blasted nuisance". Yet about 20 of those who wrote to their planning authority vehemently protesting about the noise from rural airfields declared they had no comment to make on the record to *The Times*.

"I think you know how we feel, but it's all a bit touchy," said one protester. Another added: "It is all very strange; There are a lot of undercurrents I do not intend to inflame the situation further. There are a lot of controversial words going around and it is very unpleasant."

The arguments are most heated in the picture-book villages surrounding Duxford, where the Imperial War Museum keeps its aircraft collection and which falls under the aegis of South Cambridgeshire District Council. The council has approved guidelines which will be used in future planning applications.

These include a ban on night flying, restricting the number of takeoffs and landings, banning takeoffs after 2pm on Sundays, and a ban on aircraft over 250 horse power — such as the Spitfire.

Although the policy will apply only to future planning applications, airfields that need to make minor changes to meet new safety regulations, for instance, may have to apply for planning permission. At that point the curbs would be imposed, aviation groups say.

John Jordon performed heroics at the end of the last war and now keeps a Stearman biplane at a grass airfield at Little Gransden on the Cambridgeshire-Bedfordshire border. Fifty years ago he rescued a Polish general and his family from almost certain death at the hands of the Russians at the end of the Second World War, plucking them from a field near Pilsen in the former Czechoslovakia in an Anson aircraft.

"I think these plans are stupid and terribly sad," says Mr Jordan. "I have been flying for more than 55 years and can remember how important the airfields round here were during the war. Wellingtons were kept at Great Gransden up the road."

> 'I have two Spitfires and these plans could put me out of business'

The Popular Flying Association (PFA) is now considering launching a High Court challenge to the planning guide and says that "if this policy goes unchallenged it will become the standard approach to small airfield planning nationwide". Martin Ott, executive member of the PFA, said: "Eight million people watched air shows in this country last year. Those pilots had to learn to fly somewhere, often at a small airfield in the countryside. These draconian prohibitions will radically affect all light aviation within the council's jurisdiction and beyond when, as expected, they are adopted elsewhere. Norfolk has already expressed an interest in adopting a similar policy."

David Ogilvy, chairman of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association, claims his organisation is the main group fighting airfield closures and restrictions. "South Cambridgeshire has brought things to a peak but the problem exists all over the country. A lot of rural airfields have closed or are under threat of closure. We have lost about ten in the past five years and there are severe restraints on many others," he says.

David Hussell is at the centre of the storm. As Planning director of South Cambridgeshire District Council, he says he is trying to steer a middle course between irate locals and the aviators, who maintain that their businesses as well as recreation are at risk. "A lot of aircraft are based in our district and there are many Second World War airfields. South Cambridgeshire is not against people enjoying themselves, but we have to balance this with what our residents say.

"Clearly, some residents have taken a very extreme view and that is ridiculous. Some aviators on the other hand will not accept any restrictions at all." Little Gransden airfield has become the focus of especially heated debate. The airfield has a runway which forms the border between South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon. It is also home to the Skyline school of flying and a separate business which renovates fighter aircraft from the Baltic states and former Soviet Union, employing 22 people.

> 'These flyers think they own the earth, but they are a blasted nuisance'

Graham Bright, who runs Skyline, has provisional planning permission to run his business, and this is to be reviewed in the autumn. He is unclear how the planning rules will affect his business and says: "We have bent over backwards to ensure we live in harmony with the locals." He points out that the school hosts charity fund-raising events and is teaching a disabled man to fly.

Kevin Dennington, a flying instructor at Bourn airfield near Cambridge and spokesman for the Rural Flying Corp, says: "We have a very good relationship with our parish councillors and complaints are taken seriously. We go out of our way to avoid flying over villages."

Aviators in other East Anglian counties who fear the spread of the planning policy are less tactful. "I would like to drop a bomb on South Cambridgeshire council," says Clive Denney, whose Historic Flying Company renovates historic aircraft at Audley End aerodrome in Essex. "If you don't like aircraft, don't live near an airfield. I have two Spitfires and a Hurricane here and these plans could put me out of business.

"I have a superb relationship with the locals here and most complain if I *don't* overfly their homes."

Flying a Tiger Moth, page 20

PETER BROWN

The gadwall drake croaks rather than quacks

All in a flap at the pit

FEATHER REPORT

A SUMMER'S day by an old, disused gravel pit north of London produced plenty of bird pleasures last week.

It is a fairly marshy stretch of water now, with a mud-spit running into it from one of its leafy shores. In the middle there is also a small raft with a floor of pebbles, specially provided by local ornithologists, on which a common tern was sitting on a clutch of eggs. Its mate was perched on a post.

I had only just arrived when drama began. A heron came beating over the water, and instantly both terns flew up making sharp cries. They rose above the heron, then dived down on him again and again. He was not at all happy, flapping heavily to try to escape them. They were a brilliant sight with their flickering white wings, and they stayed with him till he was far away; then one came back swiftly to the nest while the other settled at the tip of the spit.

Even here it was aggressive. A redshank came stepping through the water on its long, red legs and gave itself a thorough washing. After a while, the tern had had enough of this. It flew at the redshank, who scampered off quickly.

I suspect the redshank had a mate on her nest somewhere in the vegetation. Indeed, several of the birds on the spit looked like idle males who were waiting for their young to hatch. There was a very somnolent shoveler, whose rich red flanks glowed in the sun, and there were two or three male gadwall.

The gadwall is a delightful duck which was introduced into Britain in 1850. It is now well distributed and has been increasing in numbers. Neither sex has any dramatic features, but the drake is mainly soft grey with a distinctive black patch in front of the tail, and the duck can be distinguished from a female mallard by her orange beak. The drake also has a curious croak when it is alarmed — more yapping than quacking.

They are vegetarians, eating the juicy weeds underwater. Even the ducklings mostly eat weeds, unlike mallard ducklings, which eat insects off the water until they are fledged.

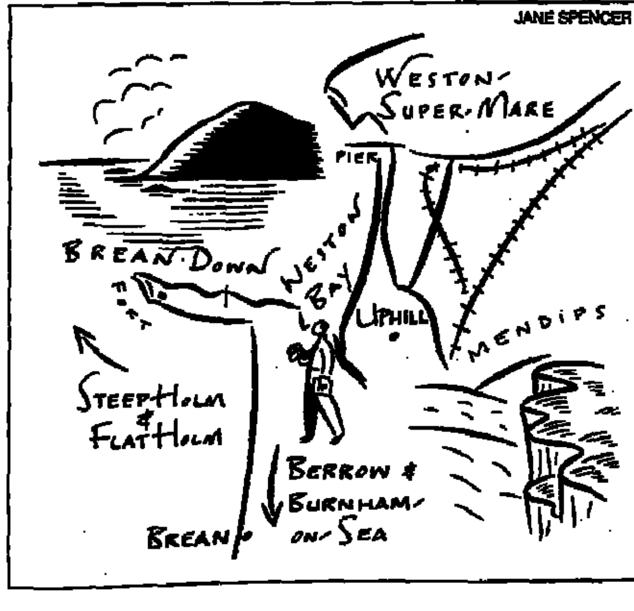
Coot were swimming about with their red-headed young, and a pied wagtail lopped over the water; then suddenly a pair of sharp brown wings went flashing up and down the spit like a flying star and dropped to reveal that they belonged to a little ringed plover.

This bird, too, may have had a mate on eggs somewhere among the plants in the dry middle of the spit. It is a pretty little plover, with a black-banded head, and is another species which has grown more common after introducing itself to Britain in the first summers after the Second World War.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about** — *Birders: look out for noisy family parties of blue and great tits in gardens and woodland. Twitchers: a great reed warbler at Netherfield, Nottinghamshire; a long-billed dowitcher at Titchwell, Norfolk; a bee-eater at Crane Moor, Yorkshire.*
Details from Birdline (0891 700222). Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

JANE SPENCER



ON THE SPOT
SOMERSET

Rural recommendations

The place: *Brean Down, a steep-sided,* former tidal island which reaches two miles out into the Bristol Channel, just south of Weston-super-Mare.

The view: The down cuts into an often mirror-flat sea at high tide, which becomes a glistening expanse of sand and mud at low tide. To the south lie miles of broad beach, flanked by sand dunes which are thick with brambles and sea grasses. Behind is caravan land. To the north, Weston Bay displays its splendid Grand Pier and rows of seaside hotels. Three miles out, in the middle of the Bristol Channel, are Brean Down's sister islands, the low slab of Flatholm and Steepholm, a rocky bird sanctuary. Beyond them, even South Wales is visible on a clear day. Inland, the Mendips stretch into the distance.

The appeal: When I was young, from my grandparents' caravan at its foot, Brean Down by night looked like a huge sleeping whale. In the day we often climbed to the top to look for butterflies.

Historical interest: At the Down's seaward tip is a grey stone fort, which Palmerston had built in the 1860s, fearing the French might launch an attack up the Bristol Channel. To the east, there are signs of an Iron Age fort. The Down was also the site of a Roman temple and a Bronze Age burial ground.

Aficionados: In summer, walkers and holidaymakers who have the energy to negotiate the Down's steep path. In winter, dedicated birdwatchers and the occasional locals walking their dogs.

Best time to visit: *In spring the tides* are at their most dramatic. Brean Down is rarely crowded, even in summer, as its undulating shape disguises the number of walkers on it.

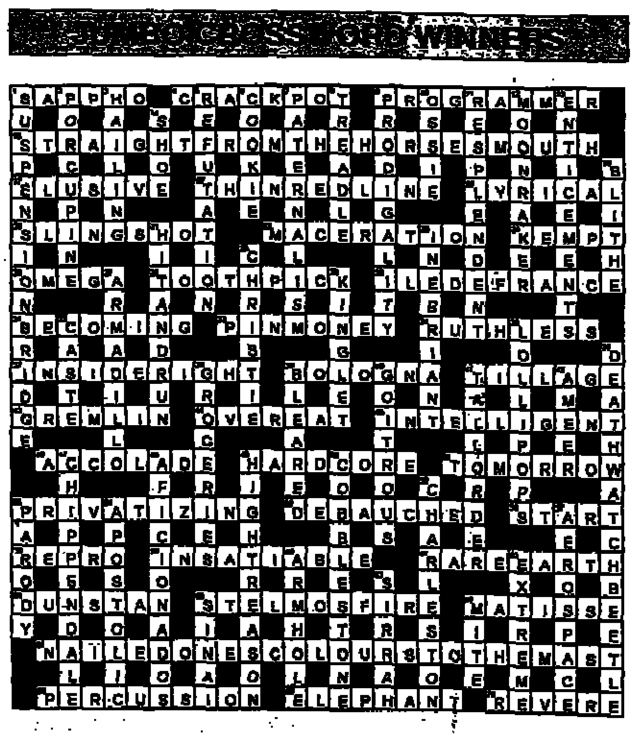
How to get there: *From Burnham-on-Sea,* turn north along the coast road through Berrow to Brean. By train: Highbridge Station, two miles from Burnham-on-Sea.

OS reference: *290590 (Landranger 182)*

Also nearby: Five miles to the south is the small resort of Burnham-on-Sea, where children can enjoy donkey rides on the beach. There is also a regular market; Brent Knoll, a large hill rising out of the Somerset Levels, which offers wonderful views of North Devon: the Wookey Hole Caves and Cheddar Gorge are 30 minutes' drive by car.

BRIDGET HARRISON

JUMBO CROSSWORD WINNERS



THE WINNERS of the Jumbo Crossword were: W.Nunn of Petts Wood, Kent; Donald McRae of Kircudbright, Scotland; D. Parks-Smith of Northwich, Cheshire; M.Curtis of Ashford, Kent; David Sweet of Clevedon, Somerset; Jean Vaughan of Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

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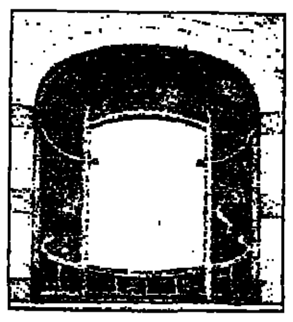


ROBIN LAURANCE

Fishing boats hard at work in Chittagong display the dignity of the Bangladeshis. The lifestyle of those who live in the countryside or on the water is so beguiling that it is easy to forget the nation is one of the poorest in the world

A world of watercolours

Sara Wheeler visits beguiling Bangladesh, where medieval poverty combines with a landscape of extreme beauty

Bangladesh is a tropical country gilded with rivers. Tucked neatly into the crotch of Asia, it consists of silty lowlands squeezed between the jumbled states of east India and the western border of Myanmar. This is protean land, constantly reshaped by water rushing off the Himalayas towards the Bay of Bengal, and as much as 70 per cent is submerged at any one time. Famous only for being poor, 112 million people in a space the size of England and Wales make this the most densely populated country on earth.

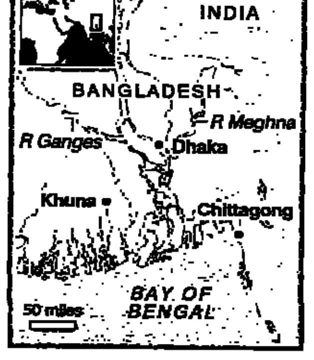
Among the vibrant fertility of the flooded green fields lie clues to moments of past greatness as the eastern half of Bengal: shattered walls of labyrinthine 10th-century palaces and decaying 17th-century Mogul mosques. The British made the province the heart of their great Indian empire until 1912, when they shifted their capital across the country to Delhi. The apocalyptic famine of 1943 precipitated the collapse of Bengal, and at Partition in 1947 the eastern regions became East Pakistan and lost the majority of their Hindus. In 1971 the country won its independence and became Bangladesh.

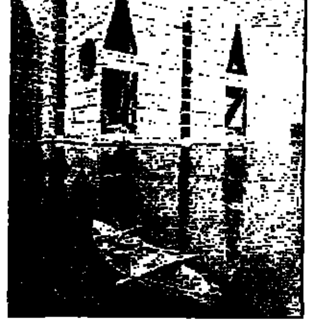
There is no tourism in Bangladesh. There are also very few places to stay in the countryside, and as a result I was obliged to hop between towns — an unfortunate turn of events, as Bangladesh urban centres are squalid hellholes, their buildings leprous with corrosion. To the European eye the narrow lanes have a medieval character, especially at night. Shrouded figures crouch beside flickering fires, candles gutter in stinking corners, a small crowd jostles around bunches of vegetables and an itinerant ear doctor cries for trade, a tray of brutal implements around his neck.

The streets of Dhaka, the capital, are choked with more than 100,000 elaborately painted cycle rickshaws. At night, kerosene lamps swing from the undercarriage. Train travel is easy (the only thing in Bangladesh that is), not least because Bangladesh Railways, conveniently known as BR, eschews the byzantine booking systems of India. Throughout the journey an obliging steward carries china cups of milky tea through the first-class carriage as the landscape beyond unravels.

Ubiquitous features of rural Bangladesh include emerald rice paddies, bushes garlanded with drying saris and fort-like villages raised on mounds against the monsoon. Women stoop in fields, men squat in tight groups, children totter under vast bales and bony oxen towing antediluvian ploughs are worried by ragged-tailed jackals.

The countryside is so beguiling that I forgot I was in one of the poorest countries in the world. In the villages, dignity clings tenaciously even to the most abject but the urban slums are mired in despair. The country's 158 tea estates are in the north east, the roads around them spotted with squads of pluckers — all women — walking to work with baskets on their backs. In this area, the Lawachara rainforest has miraculously escaped deforestation and there I found screaming langur monkeys among the mahogany trees as well as the the hoolock gibbon.




Dhaka: parliament building

What I liked best in Bangladesh was sitting in a cane armchair on the deck of a Rocket paddle steamer as it chugged down the Meghna River while hundreds of small boats puttered past and anguished calls to prayer floated from the banks. Schools of dolphins leapt among the patched boats and pale mauve rafts of water hyacinth while river-borne gypsies tethered their boats alongside the coconut groves in search of customers for their herbal medicines. The magnificent Rockets, their paddle wheels powered now by diesel engines, alas, travel four times a week between Dhaka and Khulna, a 24-hour trip.

Chittagong, in the south east, is the second city and first port. (According to Ptolemy, in the 2nd century AD it was one of the finest ports in the East.) Bangladesh is the world capital of cheap labour, and nowhere is this more evident than in the shipbreaking yards outside Chittagong. There the clapped-out ships of the world converge so Bangladeshis can take them apart with blowtorches, hammers and brute force. Accompanied by banging, hissing and chants of the "all-together-now" variety, half-eaten ships like dinosaur skeletons sink into the mudflats of the Bay of Bengal.

In the extreme south east, 100 miles south of Chittagong, the beguiling name of Cox's Bazar belies the charmless aspect of the town itself, but the beach is allegedly the longest in the world. The Bangladeshi coast is exposed to the Bay of Bengal, and in Cox's Bazar trucks patrol the streets issuing cyclone warnings from loudspeakers. The last cyclone killed 100,000 and a week later they were still hooking corpses out of trees. Nonetheless, Cox's Bazar is the main holiday resort for middle-class Bangladeshis, all clamouring, when I appeared, to have their photograph taken with me.

Approaching the Ganges delta, the watery landscape embraces thatched huts on stilts and partially submerged water buffaloes. Villages eventually yield to the Sundarbans, a dense mangrove forest along the Bay of Bengal covering 2,300 square miles.

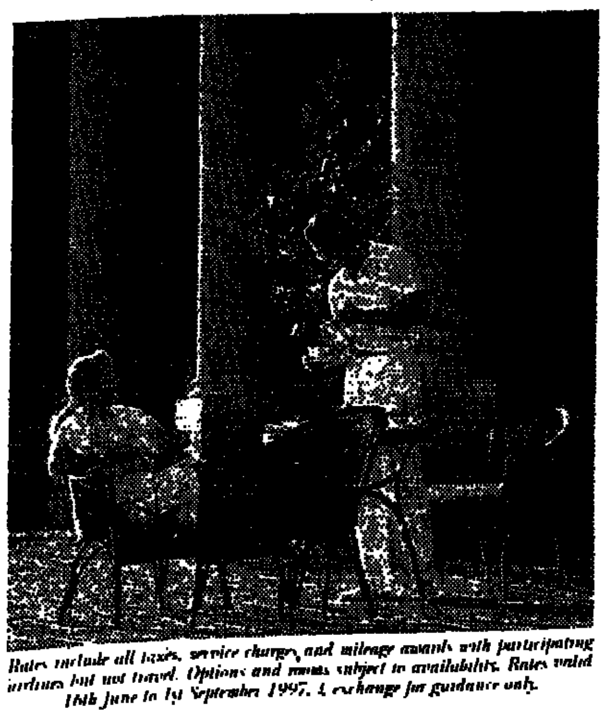
Out on the water, fishing vessels emerged from the dawn mist. In the lonely backwaters of the Sundarbans men use trained otters to chase fish into nets. A pair of harnessed otters harry and dive through the milk-chocolate water while four men, standing up in their gondola-shaped boat, manoeuvre nets attached to 6ft bamboo poles.

It is a tough destination for tourists. All travel in Bangladesh is circumscribed by ferries, and they are usually broken down, paralysed by strikes, or clogged with queues. In addition, outside the small intellectual circles of the capital I hardly found anyone who spoke English.

Being in India was a picnic after three weeks fighting my way around Bangladesh. (Calcutta might have earned a place in the geographical imagination of the west as a cipher of disease and despair, but rich Bangladeshis go to Calcutta for medical treatment. But despite it all, Bangladesh is safe, cheap and tourist-free, and the operatic landscape makes all the struggle melt into the silt.

BANGLADESH FACT FILE

- **British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Dhaka five times a week via Delhi. Fares this month are from £1,114. Biman, the Bangladeshi national carrier (0171-629 0252) also flies London-Dhaka. Ticket consolidator Jumbo Travel (0171-258 0295) has BA tickets for July from £465 return, with Biman from £495.**
- **Overland: It is possible to enter Bangladesh from India. The most reliable crossing points are Benapol/Haridaspur in the south; Chilahati/Haldibair in the north.**
- **Visas are required. A single-entry visa costs £40. Application forms are available from the Bangladesh High Commission, 28 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5JA (0171-584 0081). Open to personal callers Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm. Allow three weeks for postal applications.**
- **Vaccinations: It is advisable to have hepatitis, typhoid, tetanus and polio. Take iodine water purification tablets.**
- **Currency: There are currently 70 taka to the pound. Credit cards and travellers cheques are only useful in Dhaka and Chittagong.**
- **The best time to visit is November-February. Three-quarters of the annual rainfall falls June-September.**
- **Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Memoirs of a Bengal Civilian*, by John Beame (Eland, £8.99); *Bangladesh. Reflections on the Water*, by James J. Novak (Indiana University Press, £22.50); *Janani*, by Shaukat Osman (Heinemann, £5.99). *Bangladesh Travel Survival* Kit (Lonely Planet, £9.99).**



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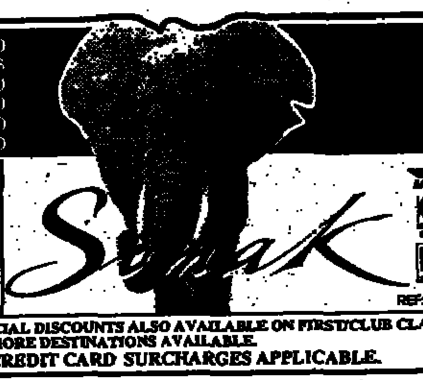

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ADELAIDE	[illegible]	G.CAYMAN	[illegible]	NEW ORLEANS	[illegible]
ALBUQUERQUE	[illegible]	GRENADA	[illegible]	NEW YORK	[illegible]
AMSTERDAM	[illegible]	HALIFAX	[illegible]	NICE	[illegible]
ANTIGUA	[illegible]	HAMBURG	[illegible]	OPORTO	[illegible]
ATHENS	[illegible]	HARARE	[illegible]	ORLANDO	[illegible]
ATLANTA	[illegible]	HAVANA	[illegible]	OSLO	[illegible]
AUCKLAND	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	OTTAWA	[illegible]
BAHRAIN	[illegible]	HELSINKI	[illegible]	PALM SPRINGS	[illegible]
BALI	[illegible]	HONG KONG	[illegible]	PARIS	[illegible]
BALTIMORE	[illegible]	HOUSTON	[illegible]	PERPIGNAN	[illegible]
BANGKOK	[illegible]	ISTANBUL	[illegible]	PERTH	[illegible]
BARBADOS	[illegible]	JAKARTA	[illegible]	PHILADELPHIA	[illegible]
BEIJING/PEKING	[illegible]	JERSEY	[illegible]	PHOENIX	[illegible]
BELGRADE	[illegible]	JO'BURG	[illegible]	PISA	[illegible]
BERLIN	[illegible]	KANSAS CITY	[illegible]	PITTSBURGH	[illegible]
BERMUDA	[illegible]	KARACHI	[illegible]	PORTLAND	[illegible]
BOGOTA	[illegible]	KATHMANDU	[illegible]	PRAGUE	[illegible]
BOMBAY	[illegible]	KIEV	[illegible]	PUERTO PLATA	[illegible]
BORDEAUX	[illegible]	KINGSTON	[illegible]	R.DURHAM	[illegible]
BOSTON	[illegible]	K.LUMPUR	[illegible]	RIGA	[illegible]
BRISBANE	[illegible]	KUWAIT	[illegible]	RIO	[illegible]
BRUSSELS	[illegible]	LAGOS	[illegible]	ROME o/w	[illegible]
BUENOS AIRES	[illegible]	LAS VEGAS	[illegible]	SALT LAKE CITY	[illegible]
CAIRNS	[illegible]	LILONGWE	[illegible]	SAN ANTONIO	[illegible]
CAIRO	[illegible]	LISBON	[illegible]	SAN DIEGO	[illegible]
CALGARY	[illegible]	LOS ANGELES	[illegible]	SAN FRANCISCO	[illegible]
CANCUN	[illegible]	LUSAKA	[illegible]	S.DOMINGO	[illegible]
CAPETOWN	[illegible]	LUXEMBOURG	[illegible]	SAN JUAN	[illegible]
CARACAS	[illegible]	LYON	[illegible]	SAO PAULO	[illegible]
CHARLOTTE	[illegible]	MADRID	[illegible]	SARASOTA	[illegible]
CHICAGO	[illegible]	MALAGA	[illegible]	SEATTLE	[illegible]
CINCINNATI	[illegible]	MALTA	[illegible]	SINGAPORE	[illegible]
COPENHAGEN o/w	[illegible]	MANILA	[illegible]	ST LOUIS	[illegible]
DALLAS FT.WORTH	[illegible]	MARSEILLE	[illegible]	ST LUCIA	[illegible]
DAR ES SALAAM	[illegible]	MAURITIUS	[illegible]	STOCKHOLM	[illegible]
DARWIN	[illegible]	MELBOURNE	[illegible]	SYDNEY	[illegible]
DELHI	[illegible]	MEMPHIS	[illegible]	TAMPA	[illegible]
DENVER	[illegible]	MEXICO CITY	[illegible]	TEL AVIV	[illegible]
DETROIT	[illegible]	MIAMI o/w	[illegible]	TOBAGO	[illegible]
DUBAI	[illegible]	MIAMI rtn	[illegible]	TOKYO	[illegible]
DURBAN	[illegible]	MILAN	[illegible]	TORONTO	[illegible]
DUSSELDORF o/w	[illegible]	MINNEAPOLIS	[illegible]	TOULOUSE	[illegible]
ENTEBBE	[illegible]	MONTEGO BAY	[illegible]	TUCSON	[illegible]
FARO	[illegible]	MONTPELLIER	[illegible]	VANCOUVER	[illegible]
FRANKFURT	[illegible]	MONTREAL	[illegible]	VENICE	[illegible]
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ADELAIDE	[illegible]	FLORIDA KEYS	[illegible]	NASSAU	[illegible]
AMMAN	[illegible]	FT LAUDERDALE	[illegible]	NEW ORLEANS	[illegible]
ANCHORAGE	[illegible]	FORT MYERS	[illegible]	NICE	[illegible]
ANTIGUA	[illegible]	FREEPORT	[illegible]	OPORTO	[illegible]
ATHENS	[illegible]	G.CAYMAN	[illegible]	ORLANDO	[illegible]
ATLANTA	[illegible]	GRENADA	[illegible]	PERTH	[illegible]
AUCKLAND	[illegible]	GUADALAJARA	[illegible]	PHILADELPHIA	[illegible]
BAHRAIN	[illegible]	HALIFAX	[illegible]	PHOENIX	[illegible]
BALTIMORE	[illegible]	HARARE	[illegible]	PITTSBURGH	[illegible]
BANGKOK	[illegible]	HONG KONG	[illegible]	PORTLAND	[illegible]
BARBADOS	[illegible]	HONOLULU	[illegible]	PORT OF SPAIN	[illegible]
BEIJING	[illegible]	HOUSTON	[illegible]	PTO VALLARTA	[illegible]
BERMUDA	[illegible]	ISTANBUL	[illegible]	R.DURHAM	[illegible]
BOMBAY	[illegible]	JACKSONVILLE	[illegible]	RIO	[illegible]
BOSTON	[illegible]	JAKARTA	[illegible]	ROME	[illegible]
BRISBANE	[illegible]	JEDDAH	[illegible]	SALT LAKE CITY	[illegible]
CALGARY	[illegible]	JO'BURG	[illegible]	SAN JUAN	[illegible]
CAIRNS	[illegible]	KATHMANDU	[illegible]	SARASOTA	[illegible]
CAIRO	[illegible]	KINGSTON	[illegible]	SEATTLE	[illegible]
CALCUTTA	[illegible]	K.LUMPUR	[illegible]	SEYCHELLES	[illegible]
CANCUN	[illegible]	LAGOS	[illegible]	ST LOUIS	[illegible]
CAPE TOWN	[illegible]	LAS VEGAS	[illegible]	ST LUCIA	[illegible]
CAYMAN BRAC	[illegible]	LISBON	[illegible]	SINGAPORE	[illegible]
DALLAS F.W.	[illegible]	LILONGWE	[illegible]	SYDNEY	[illegible]
DAMASCUS	[illegible]	LUSAKA	[illegible]	TAMPA	[illegible]
D.ES SALAAM	[illegible]	LYON	[illegible]	TOBAGO	[illegible]
DARWIN	[illegible]	MADRID	[illegible]	TOKYO	[illegible]
DAYTONA BCH	[illegible]	MANILA	[illegible]	T.CAICOS ISL	[illegible]
DELHI	[illegible]	MAURITIUS	[illegible]	VANCOUVER	[illegible]
DENVER	[illegible]	MIAMI	[illegible]	VENICE	[illegible]
DETROIT	[illegible]	MELBOURNE	[illegible]	VIRGIN ISLANDS	[illegible]
DHAKA	[illegible]	MEXICO CITY	[illegible]	WASHINGTON	[illegible]
DUBAI	[illegible]	MILAN	[illegible]	WEST PALM BCH	[illegible]
DURBAN	[illegible]	MINNEAPOLIS	[illegible]	WINNIPEG	[illegible]
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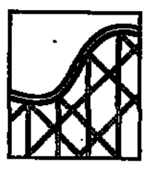
HOTEL connoisseurs will enjoy browsing through the distinguished collection in the Different World of Hotels programme from CV Travel (0171-581 0851). It features desert hideaways, Caribbean retreats, Italian palazzos and private African lodges rarely found in mainstream brochures.

Among those hotels that make a holiday are the friendly pink-washed Cobblers Cove in Barbados, and the escapist Young Island on its own islet off St Vincent, where you could spend a week, from £975 and £1,450 respectively with half-board and flights.

Also included are Ravello's 12th-century palace, now the Hotel Palumbo (£615); La Gazelle d'Or just outside the walled Moroccan city of Taroudant (from £725); and Andalucia's Hotel Puente Romano (from £380) and La Bobadilla (from £485), all prices for four nights' half-board including flights.

Dream themes



FANS of Europe's theme parks can enjoy a double dose on an 11-day trip in October with Siesta Travel (01642 227716). There is a full day at Paris Disneyland before continuing on to the resort of Salou, near Spain's Port Aventura. The cost of £528 for two adults and two children covers coach travel; one night in a hotel near Paris, seven nights' self-catering accommodation in Salou and full day tickets to each of the theme parks. Two nights are spent on the coach.

FAMILIES who do not want to join the bucket and spade brigade for their summer holidays should take heart — several firms can provide more challenging alternatives.

French specialist VFB (01242 240332) has added a new resort, Samoens in the Alps to its France Active Programme offering action-packed mountain holidays for families. Roadskating on a six-kilometre cycle track around Lake Annecy, potholing, and *via ferrata*, the latest sporting craze from Italy involving cliff ascents attached to a cable, have been added to a list of pursuits which include canyoning, summer skiing, whitewater sports and mountain biking. Prices are from £532 for a week for a family of four travelling by car and staying in a self-catering apartment in July and August.

Also in the Alps, family specialist Sun Esprit (01252 616789) organises active holidays based in a guest house at Morzine in France with a nursery and baby-sitting for younger children, and "Alpies Club" for 4-12s, with supervised outings. Prices are from £275 per adult (including car and passenger crossing) for a week, with extra costs for children's activities.

For families with restless teenagers, adventure sport specialist Tall Stories (01932 252002) *runs* sporting family weeks combining riding, biking and watersport activities in Austria, Corsica and Spain. A family of four would pay from £1,300 for seven nights' half-board and sports instruction, but not flights.

French fare

THOSE travelling through France this summer may find it worthwhile stopping off at Limoges for the Planet Porcelain exhibition. It traces the history of the region's most famous product from its kaolin origins. Ten top *porcelainiers* are represented. The exhibition at the Hôtel de Ville is free — until September 30.

THE latest superliner from P&O (0171-800 2222) is *Arcadia*, a 63,000 tonne ship which previously sailed under the Princess Cruise banner. It will replace the much-lamented *Canberra* from December 1997, and the Master Captain Rory Smith and many of the crew are moving over from the *Canberra*.

Her inaugural 1998 season of 21 cruises, all from Southampton, range from three to 16 nights. A week's autumn cruise to Vigo, Lisbon, La Rochelle and St Peter Port costs from £825; a three-night cross-Channel break to Cherbourg and Le Havre in October from £295. Early bookers can claim up to 20 per cent discount.

On track

A RAILWAY buff's idea of heaven this summer will be Switzerland. To celebrate 150 years of Swiss Railways, rolling stock exhibitions, railway fairs, station art, steam trips, music nights, model railway days, narrow-gauge events and locomotive naming ceremonies are taking place all over the country.

New museum and hotel passes also help to make the country more holiday friendly: the Swiss Museum Passport, costing SwFr30 (£14) per adult per month, SwFr35 (£16) for adults with children, gives access to 180 museums. A Swiss Hotel Pass valid to the end of 1997 entitles the holder to a 50 per cent discount at more than 80 hotels (subject to space), and costs SwFr220 (£100) for a couple plus accompanied children, and SwFR120 (£55) for one person.

Passes are available from the Switzerland Travel Centre, Swiss Centre, Swiss Court, London W1V 8EE (0171-734 1921).

COLONEL John Blashford-Snell, who successfully completed the Blue Nile expedition in 1968, is to return to Ethiopia to lead the non-profit making wildlife and zoological quest of the Scientific Exploration Society (01747 854898) in October.

The three-week trip will also be accompanied by scientists from the Harrison Zoological Museum in Kent and the University of Addis Ababa, plus anybody who is fit and able to support the project financially to the tune of £2,400, with an extra £555 for international flights. Travelling in four-wheel-drive vehicles, the group will tackle rainforests, the Rift Valley and wildlife sanctuaries in search of exotic creatures, finishing with a seminar in the capital.

Cruise away

A NEW Antarctica and Amazon Explorer programme from Abercrombie & Kent (0171-559 8500) offers expeditionary cruises on board its own Antarctic cruise ship *Explorer*, which can venture deep into these important but fragile ecosystems.

In the Amazon, a River Sea Cruise costing £3,981 for two weeks fully inclusive, travels 2,000 miles across the continent from Belem in Brazil to Iquitos in Peru, while the Rainforest Experience (£2,387) puts the Peruvian rainforest under the microscope, with three nights in the jungle.

Running between November and February, Antarctic cruises start at £4,777.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

BASOPHIL

(c) Something that stains readily with a basic dye. Applied to a cell or other structure having an affinity with basic substances. From the Greek. "The nuclei of all these varieties of colourless blood corpuscles are basophil, which means that they have a strong affinity for basic aniline dyes such as methylene blue."

FAVELA

(b) In Brazil, a shack or shanty. Usually in the plural, favelas, a collection of improvised huts, a shanty town. Hence *favelado*, a person dwelling in a favela.

ANABRANCH

(a) Especially in Australia, where this geographical phenomenon is common, a branch stream which turns out of a river and re-enters it lower down.

COLNEY HATCH

(a) The name of a Middlesex village, and of a mental hospital opened there in 1851. Hence used allusively as a toponym for a lunatic asylum or madhouse. P. G. Wodehouse, *Uncle Fred in Springtime*, 1939: "He'll probably end his days in Colney Hatch."

IMAGE BANK

Squeals on wheels: follow the famous 2,400-mile Harley Route 66 from Los Angeles to Chicago on a fly-drive holiday

SPECIAL OFFERS

ABOARD THE SAILING SHIP

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Once under way the 'Star Clipper' provides an experience no conventional cruise ship can possibly emulate. To be on deck as the wind fills her sails and the vessel heels slightly is a unique feeling and whether you are on board for a few days or a month you will return home having experienced the wonders of a cruise under sail.

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Clearly the 'Star Clipper' is not a cruise ship in the accepted sense of the word. Although you will find all the amenities you would expect of vessels this size, you will not find the usual endless entertainments which typify most modern day cruise vessels. In its place you will discover an atmosphere more akin to a private yacht.

With a maximum of 170 passengers, the complement is small enough to remain relatively intimate, yet large enough to ensure an interesting mix of travellers. There is plenty of deck space on board and facilities include two swimming pools, library and a lounge-bar.

The cabins all include private shower and toilet, twin or double beds, radio, and most have a TV. Some of the higher category cabins also have a whirlpool bath.

FROM CANNES TO MALAGA
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A 9 night Mediterranean Voyage

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Day 1 London (Heathrow) to Nice by early afternoon scheduled flight. Drive to Cannes and embark 'Star Clipper' and sail in the evening.

Day 2 Calvi. Our first landfall will be the rugged western coast of the island of Corsica. A wonderfully dramatic coastline, backed by a wild and mountainous landscape which is dotted with hillside villages. We will drop anchor at Calvi, explore the town and the excellent nearby beaches.

Day 3 At sea. An opportunity to relax and appreciate your tall ship as she heads on a south westerly course to the Balearic islands.

Day 4 Menorca. Most northerly of the Balearics and the least dedicated to tourism, the island of Menorca offers a pastoral countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. See the mysterious rock mounds (talayots) and megalithic stone monuments which were erected some 4,000 years ago. Stroll the streets of aristocratic Ciudadela the architectural showpiece of Menorca and see the 18th century buildings in the island's capital of Mahon, built during the British occupation.

Day 5 Mallorca. We will moor in Palma's attractive harbour during the morning and have the day to explore the city, shop and perhaps travel inland to the enchanting countryside which has changed little over the centuries.

Day 6 Ibiza. A ruggedly beautiful and mountainous island with brilliant white African style houses, perhaps a legacy of the days when the island was a Carthagenian colony. Viewed from the sea the island is enchanting and ashore in Ibiza Town spend some time in the Upper Town which is enclosed within 16th century walls and is the heart of the old city.

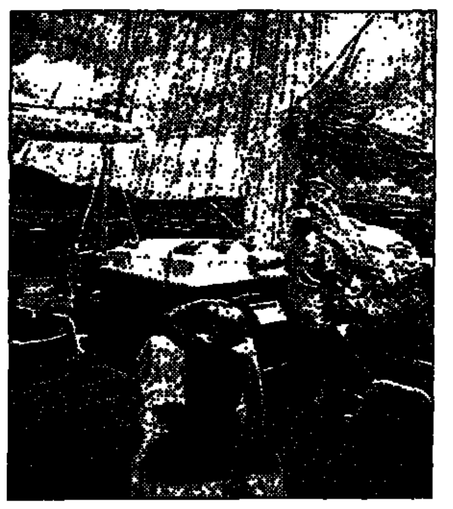
Day 7 Formentera. Least known and visited of the Balearics this tiny island, just 9 miles across is in fact two islets joined by a sandy isthmus. We will have the day to explore its sandy beaches, lagoons, saltmarshes and the capital of San Francisco Javier.

Day 8 At sea. Heading for the Andalusian coast and the resort of Marbella.

Day 9 Marbella. South Spain's stylish and oldest resort is our base for the day and night. Enjoy its beaches, deluxe hotels and old town or take a day excursion to into the hills to visit Granada, world famous for its natural beauty and architectural splendour. See the Alhambra, a lavish palace, fortress and garden complex built by the all powerful Moorish kings in the 14th century.

Day 10 Malaga to London (Gatwick). Set sail in the early hours for the short run along the coast to Malaga. Disembark after breakfast, drive to Malaga Airport and return to London by scheduled flight.

Prices per person from £1125 for a category 6 twin cabin to £1660 for a category 1 twin cabin. Single cabin £1495.



MOROCCO BOUND
29 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER 1997
A 4 night sailing from Malaga to Tangier, Cadiz (Seville) and Gibraltar

The Itinerary

Day 1 London (Gatwick) to Malaga by scheduled flight. Embark 'Star Clipper' and sail

Day 2 Tangier. The most cosmopolitan of all Moroccan cities. Visit the Medina, see the Great Mosque and haggle in the Kasbah.

Day 3 Cadiz. Returning to Andalusia and the ancient port of Cadiz with a 3000 year colourful history you have the choice of exploring the city or taking a full day excursion to Seville, surely the endlessly captivating of all Andalusian cities.

Day 4 Gibraltar. Its strong UK links and maritime history make for a most interesting day. Climb the Rock and look down for stunning views of the port and the Star Clipper.

Day 5 Malaga to London. Disembark after breakfast and return by scheduled flight to Gatwick.

Prices per person from £795 for a category 6 twin cabin to £1080 for a category 1 twin cabin. Single cabin £915.

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The Itinerary

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Days 2-6 At sea.

Day 7 Las Palmas. Like Christopher Columbus who dropped anchor here on 12 October 1492 on his first trans-Atlantic crossing, we shall take on water and supplies for our voyage. There will be time to visit the Cathedral and the town and perhaps see Columbus' House and the nearby St Antony's built on the site where the great explorer attended Mass prior to his momentous journey.

Days 8-22 At sea.

Day 23 Barbados to London. Arrive Barbados in the morning and disembark after breakfast. Evening departure by scheduled flight to London

Day 24 London (Gatwick). Morning arrival.

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Portugal: From the ancient streets of Oporto to the breathtaking Douro valley, history has left its imprint

Port, palaces and endless pleasures

TONY STONE

Oporto's cobbled streets, red-roofed houses and ancient churches and palaces tumble down the slopes to the Douro. The old boats that once ferried port wine are still moored there

When Afonso Henriques was proclaimed king of an independent northern Portugal in 1128 and began the job of gaining control of the rest of the country, the Portuguese were faced with the fierce Atlantic ocean on one side, fierce Spaniards on the other and few resources of their own. They chose to rely on the sea and rose to be the greatest maritime, commercial and colonial power in Europe during the Middle Ages.

Oporto was the centre of this power. It is a delightful town of cobbled streets, red-roofed houses and ancient churches and palaces, lying on the steep slopes above the estuary of the Douro River, on the site of the Roman towns of Portus and Cale, from where Portugal derived its name.

England played a key role in helping Portugal to achieve independence, and Oporto to achieve prosperity, beginning with the Treaty of Windsor, in 1386, and the marriage in Oporto the year after between King João I and Philippa of Lancaster, the daughter of John of Gaunt.

> 'The garden is adorned with camellias, oranges, lemons and tangerines'

In 1703, trading between the two countries was made official by the Treaty of Methwen, and English merchants moved into the production of port wine in the Douro valley.

At the top of the hill on which Oporto is built are the fine wide avenues and squares of its later history, but to get the feel of this ancient city you must go down the steep slopes to the old town. Its hundreds of churches are baroque, medieval or Neoclassical gems, and, like its old houses and palaces, are often decorated with the beautiful blue and white *azulejos* (tiles) that are famous in Portugal.

There are magnificent examples on the walls of the Sé Cathedral, which stands guard above the old town. Among many stunning church interiors, one of the finest is the Church of São Francisco, on the Rua Dom Henrique, which dazzles with its gold-leaf, baroque splendour. Go to the Rua de Santa Caterina, the crowded main shopping street in the newer part of town, just to take tea in the Majestic Café. This tearoom is maintained in all its Art Nouveau glory.

Reis Filhos, near the Praça D. João I, is dated 1880. Look up, if you dare to enter this elegant fur shop, and you will see painted ceilings to rival Madame de Pompadour's boudoir. But apart from some good leather shops and the comfortable Grand Hotel do Porto, the street has little else to offer.

So march down towards the river and take in the shops of a bygone age — haberdashery, ironmongers, specialists in buttons, candles, antiques, crafts and pewter. In the old town you see how the people have lived for nearly a thousand years. Despite the fact that Portugal now belongs to the European Union, with funding pouring in, poverty is still starkly evident. The quayside of the broad Douro river is dominated by the spectacular Dom Luis I iron bridge, dated 1886, which links Oporto with Vila Nova de Gaia on the other side. Designed by Téofilo Seyring, a disciple of Gustav Eiffel, it has an amazing two-tier span. Along the river the more modest Dona Maria iron bridge was designed by Eiffel. In fact Eiffel designed bridges all over the region. An ancient fable relates that Portugal's three largest rivers met in Spain before crossing the border and over a bottle of wine decided to race each other to the sea next morning. The Guadiana got up at dawn and had time to turn south through flat land for an easy journey. The Tagus awoke, saw the Guadiana had gone and set off sharpish to find a way through low mountain ranges and across plains, reaching the sea where Lisbon now stands.

The Douro, having drunk too much, slept until mid-morning and in haste went straight from east to west, carving a passage through the mountains. The Douro is indeed a mighty river. I walked along the quay and bought some of the pretty earthenware cooking pots, then crossed the bridge on its lower tier. On the Gaia side the grand port wine houses line up along the quay. Names such as Taylor's, Graham, Warre, Croft, Dow and Sandeman proclaim the truth of the alliance with England. Moored in front are the *rabelo*, one-oared boats which over the centuries carried the wine from the vineyards to the sea. Now that the casks are transported by road, the boats are used only once a year to race on the river.

Oporto food is delicious and the portions abundant. After a lunch of *sopa calda* (cabbage soup with spicy salami), *arroz y frango* (tasty chicken and rice) and chocolate mousse (must try it) at the Imar restaurant on the quayside, I felt fortified enough to walk through the portals of the House of Sandeman, founded by George Sandeman in 1790.

Walking through the cellars with their musky, heady smell of wine reposing in casks, the secrets of vintage, tawny and ruby were imparted to me. When I lived in Portugal, I loved drinking white port served chilled as an apéritif.

The countryside outside Oporto is a land of milk and honey, filled with green pastures, broad rivers, fertile land, and sun and rain. Its vines not only produce port wine but also the light, young vinho verde that is so utterly drinkable. Small churches in their distinctive granite and white, decorated with *azulejos*, are everywhere. Do not miss the baroque stairs that climb the hillside to the Bom Jesus Church overlooking Braga, nor the town's medieval centre and beautiful cathedral. Not so many years ago this countryside was dotted with rustic villages and tiny restaurants serving *bacalhau* (salted cod), tripe and a mixed grill which will fill you up for a week.

The delicious food is still there, but motorways plough through the land and an explosion of basic, ugly housing forms a continuous band from Oporto north to the Spanish border.

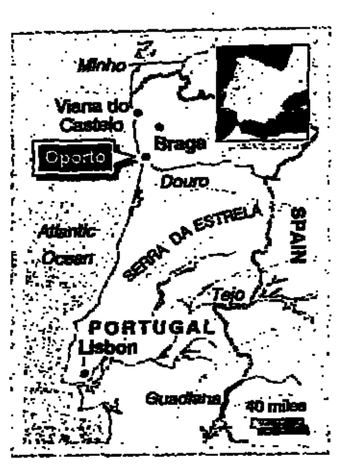
Before leaving, I went to visit friends who live in a converted monastery tucked away in the woods above Viana do Castelo. Their garden in winter is adorned with camellias, oranges, lemons and tangerines. A crystal-clear river runs through it — once used by the monks for washing.

Hidden wonders like this are what make Portugal so special and are the reason that I return again and again.

SUSAN MACDONALD

OPORTO FACT FILE

- *The author was a guest of* Travelscene (0181-427 8800), which has three-night weekend B&B breaks at the two-star Hotel Malaposta from £287 until July 14 — including TAP Air Portugal flights from London Heathrow to Oporto, and arrival transfer.
- The Grand Hotel do Porto (00 3512 200081), £52 for a twin room.
- Portuguese National Tourist Office (0171-494 1441).
- Reading: *The Factory House at Oporto*, John Delaforce (Christopher Helm, £11.95). *The Portuguese*, Marion Kaplan (Penguin, £8.99). *Porto*, Werner Radasewsky and Gunter Scheider (Nicolai, £14.95). *Blue Guide, Portugal* (A&C Black, £8.95).



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هكذا في الأصل

Brussels: Fine examples of Art Nouveau and splendid museums make for a memorable weekend break

Smart for art's sake

If Brussels merits a theme, it is Art Nouveau. And what better place to start than at its shrine. The Musée Horta is a delightful capsule of the architectural and design movement that swept across Europe in the 1890s and which proved so popular in Brussels. Horta applied the flowing curves and shapes of the natural world to iron, stone, stained glass and furniture. Today his self-designed house, now a museum, whisks one back a century to a time when the straight line was almost a necessary evil.

Even the furniture and doors have been styled, shaped or moulded. Coat hooks droop like stamen and ribbons of balusters and struts colonise a stairwell like tendrils; an opaque canopy crowns the top floor and the dining room has walls of white-enamelled brick and parquet-mosaic floor. What you do not see are the bathrooms or the kitchen. For a perfectionist obsessed with the detail of door handles and letterbox, it is hard to believe Horta did not see to these as well. "They're of no interest," an attendant said. "Servants used the basement kitchen and now it's the caretaker's flat."

Meanwhile, the house has become a victim of its own success. This year saw painstaking restoration, the first in 30 years. The most exacting task was cleaning its delicate canvas walls painted with floral motifs and ensuring their colours, especially gold, were not garishly revived.

The cult of Horta has renewed interest in Art Nouveau and probably ended the shameful destruction of some of Brussels's finest buildings. Fortunately, hundreds of houses designed by him and contemporaries remain. The grandest — called "hotels" — are concentrated in the southern districts of St Gilles and Ixelles where wealthy industrialists and engineers prospered. Walking between the choice residences in this compact city reveals an unexpected elegance and there is always a local café to rest weary legs.

Coffee-table books show the decorative interiors of Hotels Solvay and Tassel to be lavish. In the flesh, you will have to be content with the exteriors: wriggling balustrades, curved masonry and cast-iron, riveted columns. Almost all these homes are still privately owned and although a man at the Solvay said I could write requesting a visit, it seemed a vague, inconvenient prospect for the casual visitor.

The nearby Hotel Hannon is dominated by a stained-glass bow window (whose room the original plans refer to quaintly as a *jardin d'hiver* or winter garden) and sensual frescoes that soar with the stairs, this large house is now a photography gallery. Other highlights include the Maison Saint-Cyr (11 square Ambiorix) with an extravagant, swirling façade and the airy murals of Maison de Paul Cauchie (5 rue des Francs). The latter is open to the public on the first weekend of each month.

So many others failed to gain a name but pamphlets list them humbly by address. Some have charming period detail — the letterbox and boot scraper of 83 rue de Faider, the round windows and immense floral-glass panes of 6 rue de Lac, or the mosaic of cocks at a sunburst dawn at 41 place Morichar. With images of flaxen-haired maidens, paired owls and endless motifs of plants and flowers, there is an almost childlike delight in decorative effect.

The cult of Horta has renewed interest in Art Nouveau

The Belgians perfected chocolate, beer and *les frites* so it is no surprise that Art Nouveau can be indulged over a glass or two. De Ultieme Hallucinatie bar and restaurant (316 rue Royale) was originally a home and many *objets d'art* were simply left behind despite its conversion. A white, adorned piano stood at the foot of the stairs, and its cluttered dining room evoked ideals of a wealthy great-aunt.

A far less self-conscious alternative and something of an institution is the Café Falstaff (19 rue Henri Maus) opposite La Bourse, the old stock exchange. Lounging on banquettes under long mirrors, we peered up at stained glass depicting its eponymous hero. The food, too, is excellent with *waterzooi* (chicken bathed in a creamy sauce), *anguilles au vert* (a herby stew of eels) and cranberried Ardennes boar.

We nipped round the other side of the Bourse to Café Cirio (18 rue de la Bourse) for *digestifs* and sensational coffee. This cosy cave of striped banquettes, mirrors and statuesque globe-lights has been going since 1886 and one still enters through a curvy glass booth.

Café Metropole reigns from behind the hallowed walls of Brussels's finest hotel, the Metropole (31 place de Brouckere). In this rarefied atmosphere of chandeliers, salmon-pink marble walls and gold-gleaming ceilings (nothing if not smart nouveau), a maître d'hotel conducts courtly waiters in starched aprons.

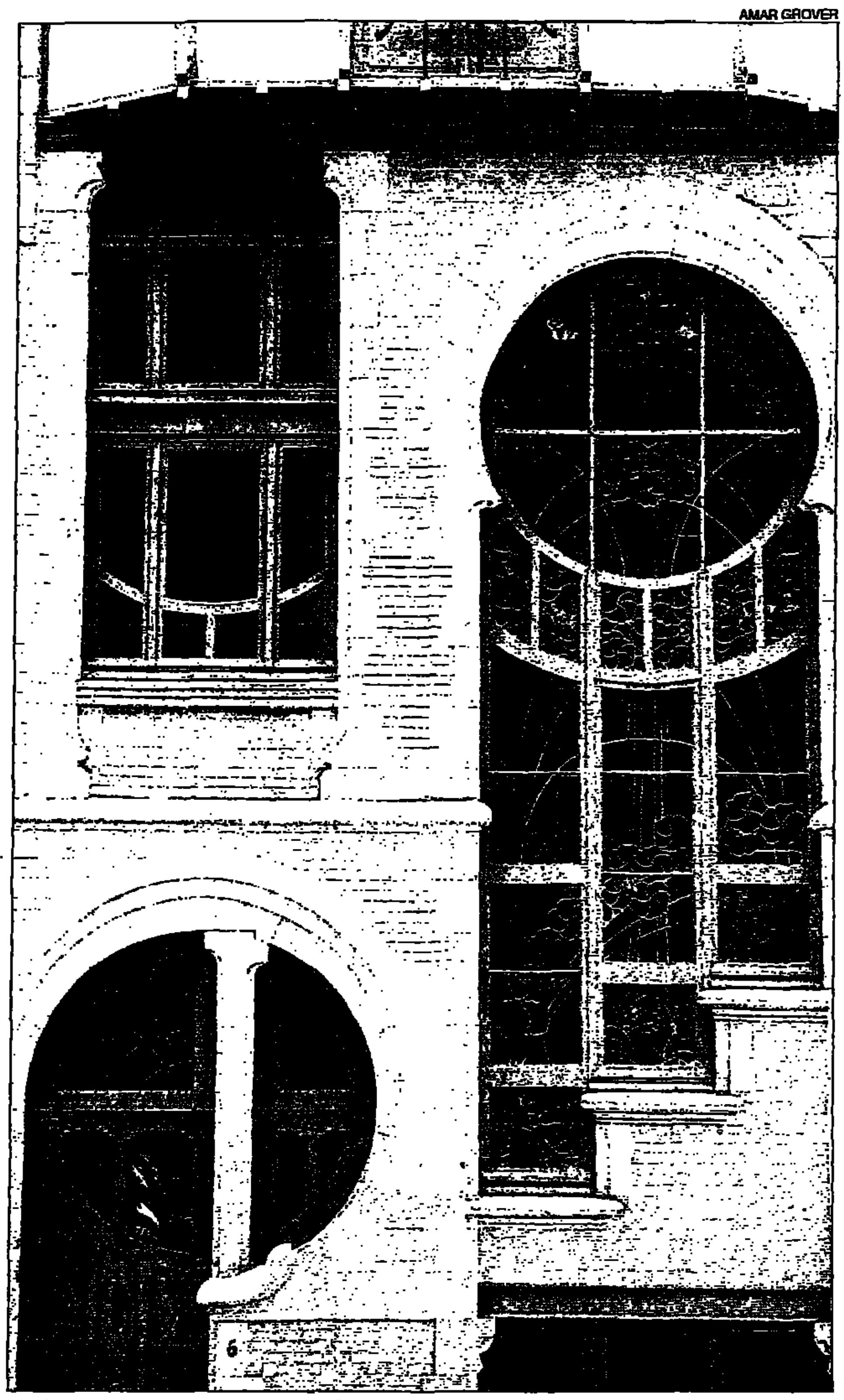
There, amid leather upholstery, medallioned mermaid lamps and sumptuous pastries, I noticed framed celebrity signatures hanging from pillars. It is a wonderful place even without approval from the great and the good.

AMAR GROVER

FACT FILE

- Amar Grover travelled by Eurostar with Time Off (0171-235 8070) and stayed at the Hotel Amigo. Prices for a two-night weekend break are £261 per person.
- James Pickard travelled via Eurostar to Brussels with Belgian Travel Service (01992 456156). A two-night B&B weekend break at the five-star Le Meridien costs £235 per person.
- The Musée Horta, 23-25 rue Americaine is open Tuesday-Sunday, 2-5.30pm. Admission is £2.25 on weekdays, £4 at weekends. Tram numbers 91/92 stop nearest to the museum. Hotel Hannon (corner of avenues Brugmann and de la Jonction) opens on the same days, 2-6pm (£1.20).
- The conservation society ARAU at 55 Bld Adolphe Max, Brussels 1000 (00 322 219 3345) has tours on Saturday mornings, usually visiting at least four buildings, including the Ultieme Hallucinatie and the Horta-designed Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée or Comic Strip Museum. Tours are usually in French or Flemish (£12).
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Flemish Cities Explored*, by Derek Blyth (Pallas Guide, £9.95). *The Professor* and *Villette*, by Charlotte Bronte (Penguin, £1.99/ £2.50). *Time Out Guide*, Brussels (Penguin, £9.99).

AMAR GROVER



If the architecture and design of Brussels has any single theme it is Art Nouveau

Capital where squares are chic

An advertisement on the Brussels subway reads "Oost West, Brussel Best". You do not need fluent Flemish to guess the translation. Curiously undervalued as a weekend destination, Brussels has more to offer than twee Ghent or Bruges.

Four hours by Eurostar and five minutes later I was lunching in the seedy area around the Gare du Midi in a run-down Greek restaurant. The beer was cheaper than the mineral water. There was no menu. Instead, the chef led customers to the kitchen to choose their meal from a dozen cooking vessels. I pointed at the moussaka. With veg and potatoes, it cost £4.

The Belgians do have a sense of humour. They must have, as they drink more fruit-flavoured beer than British imports. In a café-bar I sampled a bottle of raspberry beer and even managed to finish it. The cherry, peach and banana flavours remained untouched.

In a basement in the Grand Place, the medieval centre, the Beer Museum is dedicated to the old and new methods of brewing. Its literature states: "Brewing to the Belgians is what haute couture is to the French." With 106 breweries in the country you can use touch-screen computers or watch a video to find out more, before sampling a free beer.

Victor Hugo always rated the Grand Place as the finest square in Europe. The architecture is outstanding. One side is dominated by the medieval Town Hall: all around are old guild houses. Gables and gilted statues adorn the roofs. From the outdoor cafés lining the square you can watch the bustle of the flower and bird markets.

On the north side, the black neo-Gothic Musée de la Ville has ornate rooms full of paintings, manuscripts and models of old Brussels. A small exhibition shows glass cabinets full of costumes such as a witch's cape and a full samurai outfit which have been donated from all around the world.

They are worn by the notorious Mannekin Pis nearby, a tiny statue of a boy considered to be the symbol of the city. Although cute, it is certainly not the finest of the many statues in Brussels, worth only a passing glance for the daily change of costumes.

The grand Upper Town is a stroll from the Grand Place. For some fresh air it is worth visiting the elegant Parc du Bruxelles, flanked by the grey but imposing Palais du Roi (open August and September).

At the nearby Musées Royaux des Beaux Arts I discovered bizarre works by Warhol, Dali and Magritte, alongside more obscure Belgian artists.

Across the road it would be easy to miss the tiny park of Place du Petit Sablon, decorated with 48 statues of guildsmen in tarnished copper. Set behind the fine 15th-century church of Notre Dame du Sablon, the park has beautiful flower beds and an old fountain.

The best find of the weekend was the Musée Instrumental, a hoard of unusual musical instruments. Ornamental Indonesian gongs and a recorder the length of a thumb are laid out beside Jew's harps, bagpipes and a 12ft Swiss alphorn. One room is dedicated to Adolphe Sax, inventor.

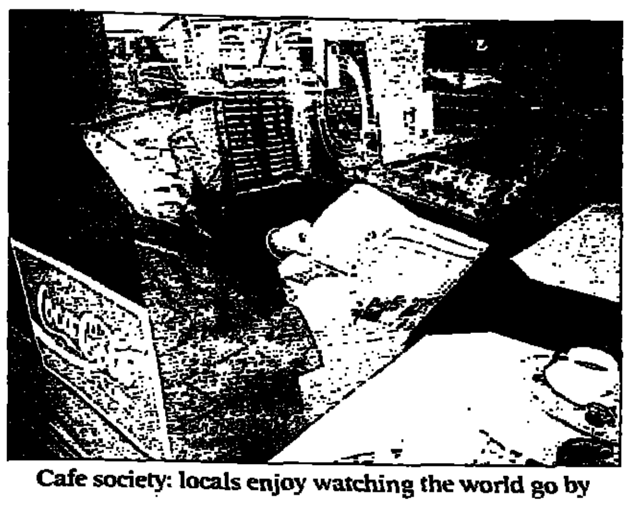
Upstairs were exquisite pianos, many 300 years old with ornate friezes and intricate designs. One piano was the size of a chocolate box with a rural painting inside the lid. The curator demonstrated how an organ works by switching on a small working model. He also showed me the finger gym, a contraption of tiny rings and pulleys used by pianists to strengthen their fingers.

The Atonium is a giant model of an iron molecule which looms above the Parc du Centaire. A glass-roofed lift carries you to the top, where you can travel from one giant golf ball to another. In each there was a badly planned exhibition — mostly cartoons. Since this giant folly was built in 1958, for the World Exhibition, it has been held up by Belgian optimists as a rival to the Eiffel Tower. This is an ambitious claim.

My preconception of Brussels as a city of grey suits had been proved wrong. Only when I stumbled on the Eurotempo shop did I see any evidence of blandness. There was row upon row of blue ashtrays, flagged cocktail sticks, brolleys and soap — all emblazoned with the 12 yellow stars of the EU. Next door the Euroline shop offered a board game, Euroracy. Its 48 pages of rules explained that the aim was "to form and maintain two consecutive governments of the same composition".

The shop assistant said that when it first came out it was played by EC office-workers during their coffee breaks. But she did not look surprised when I left empty-handed.

JAMES PICKARD



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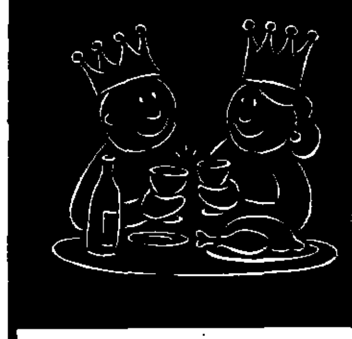

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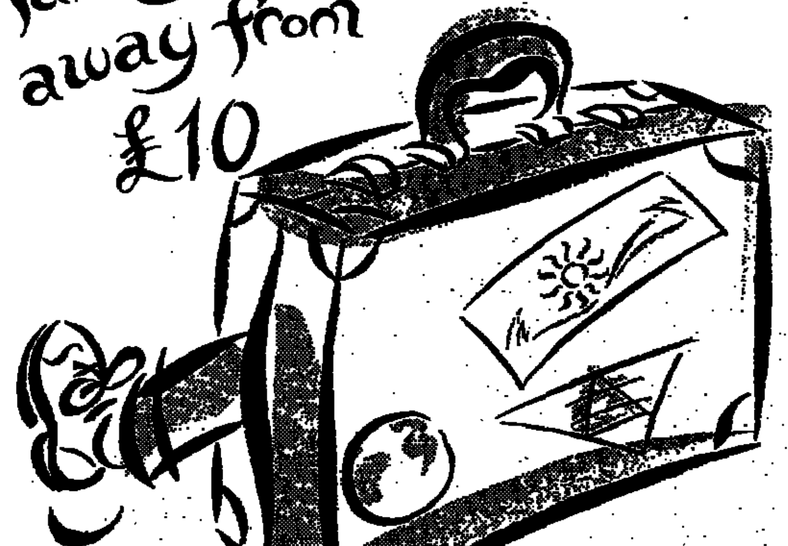

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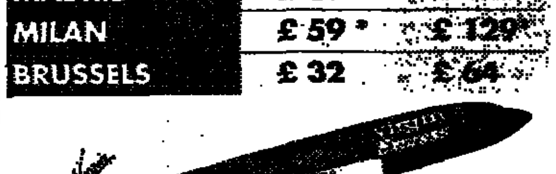

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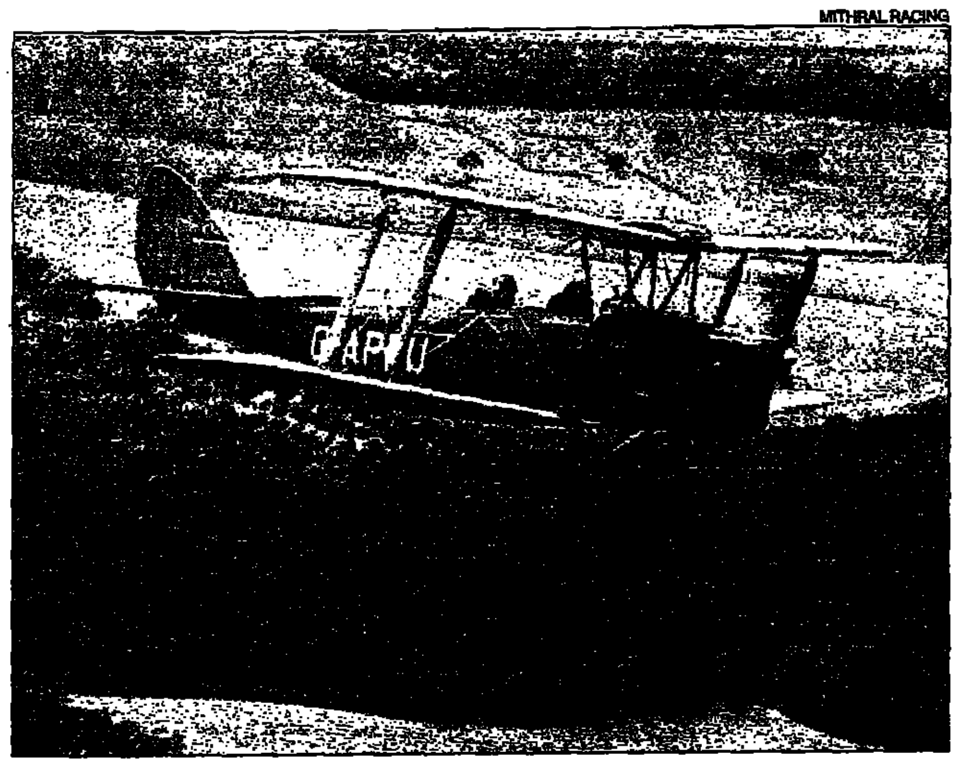
Britain: As the air show season starts, **John Naish** gets behind the controls of a 1943 vintage Tiger Moth

Reaching for the skies of nostalgia

MITHRAL RACING



The Tiger Moth was built by De Havilland in 1943 to train wartime RAF pilots

For most people, flying has become stupefyingly dull, a tedious airline-travel interlude between A and B.

We have been robbed of the *Icarus thrill — the* sheer audacity of soaring skywards in *some* fragile *contraption* — which characterised our pioneering days of flight. But thanks to a small band of vintage aircraft enthusiasts around the country, you can have that thrill back. Not only do you get to sit in the aircraft and take to the air in them — *you can even take the controls* and fly them.

Trial-lesson flights enable you to try your hand at piloting. And meticulously *maintained* classic training aircraft such as the Tiger Moth return you to that elemental airborne bliss. I took my trial lesson in a little red Moth at Goodwood aerodrome in West Sussex, courtesy of Mithril Racing. Mithril's training package *normally starts with a stint in* the briefing room, where the *instructors explain basic flight* theory, the aircraft's controls and how it is flown.

Not for me and my big mouth, however. On arrival, I decided to show off in schoolboy style by identifying all the vintage aircraft sharing the Moth's hangar. I then boasted *that I had flown gliders and* aircraft simulators in the Air Training Corps, while omitting to say this was more than 15 years ago.

"OK," said Paul Mullen, my pilot. "We'll skip the briefing." Oh dear. Straight in at the deep end. As the ground crew fitted me with flying helmet, intercom and goggles, my guts began to tighten. The aeroplane was tottered out. The skies loomed bright, cloudless and chilly; nevertheless, I was in a sweat.

As I clambered *over the* wing, between the struts and into the sparse open cockpit, *the utter primitiveness of vintage* flying hit home. This Moth, built in 1943 by De Havilland to train wartime *pilots, looked* far, far too original, with its faded instrument gauges, rough metal controls and worn canvas bodywork. I wondered whether just then, miles away in Kensington, London, a Science Museum curator was asking himself where one of *the exhibits* had gone.

Contact. The engine clattered into action. The machine shook, my eyes clouded with dust, my lungs with fumes. I felt queasy with elation and fear. *Through the headphones I faintly* heard Paul asking if I was all right. "Happy as Larry," I lied.

And so we *took* off, sedately, beautifully: so unlike the headlong roar of a jet airliner — the Moth just wafted upwards till *there we were, 1,500ft aloft,* with the Sussex coast below.

"Want to take control?" Paul suddenly asked. "Love to." That made two lies in ten minutes. "You have control," Paul declared with game-show glee. *I gripped the* joystick stiffly, *plagued* by visions of the ground spinning towards me, of a smashed wreck *burning fiercely in some poor* farmer's field. "Take it down a *hundred* feet," he *suggested.* "Now pull up . . . careful, don't stall it. Now try a right turn." I was really flying.

But hang on: in Tiger Moths, pilot and passenger sit in tandem with, glory of glories, the passenger taking the front cockpit. I could not see what Paul was up to. Maybe he had full control, *only letting me think I was* doing the driving. "Try going left now," he said. Just to check I really had control, I checked the sky was clear, and instead steered right. Blow me if the thing did not wheel rightwards. Part of me wanted to whoop with excitement, the other part was *relieved* to hand back control.

And then we did it — *the thing that put a* Mona Lisa smile on *my face for the rest of* the week. "Want to do some *tricks now?"* Paul asked. Ooh, yes please. "Like what?" I replied, thinking, say it, go on say it. He gave the right answer: "We can loop the loop if you like . . ."

We pulled other stunts too, but looping the loop is a surefire entry on any list of lifetime highs. *How was it?* I cannot even begin to tell you. You will *have to experience it yourself.* But I will not bother with *roller coasters* again — too tame, too artificial.

After 30 fleeting minutes of distilled joy, we turned back to the aerodrome. Paul had helpfully mentioned that Moths were easy to crash when landing, but there was no need to worry — we floated in for a perfect touchdown.

Mithril's trial-lesson customers are often former pilots who learnt on Moths, says *Chris Taylor, the director. One* 70-year-old had a photograph *taken posing by the* aircraft and sent a copy to Taylor, along with a snap of him in the same pose 50 years before.

Andrew Edie, of Transport Command, based at Shore*ham-by-Sea, West Sussex, has* the same experience. His company flies a 55-year-old North American Harvard of the type that trained about 10,000 wartime RAF pilots. It is much bigger than the Moth and brutally loud with its big, 600hp radial engine. Again, all flights are with qualified instructors and customers get to try flying the machine.

But what if the thought of *playing Biggles does not grab* you so much as the simple *nostalgia of flying in a relic* from a bygone age? Then consider relaxing as a passenger in a 1930s biplane airliner.

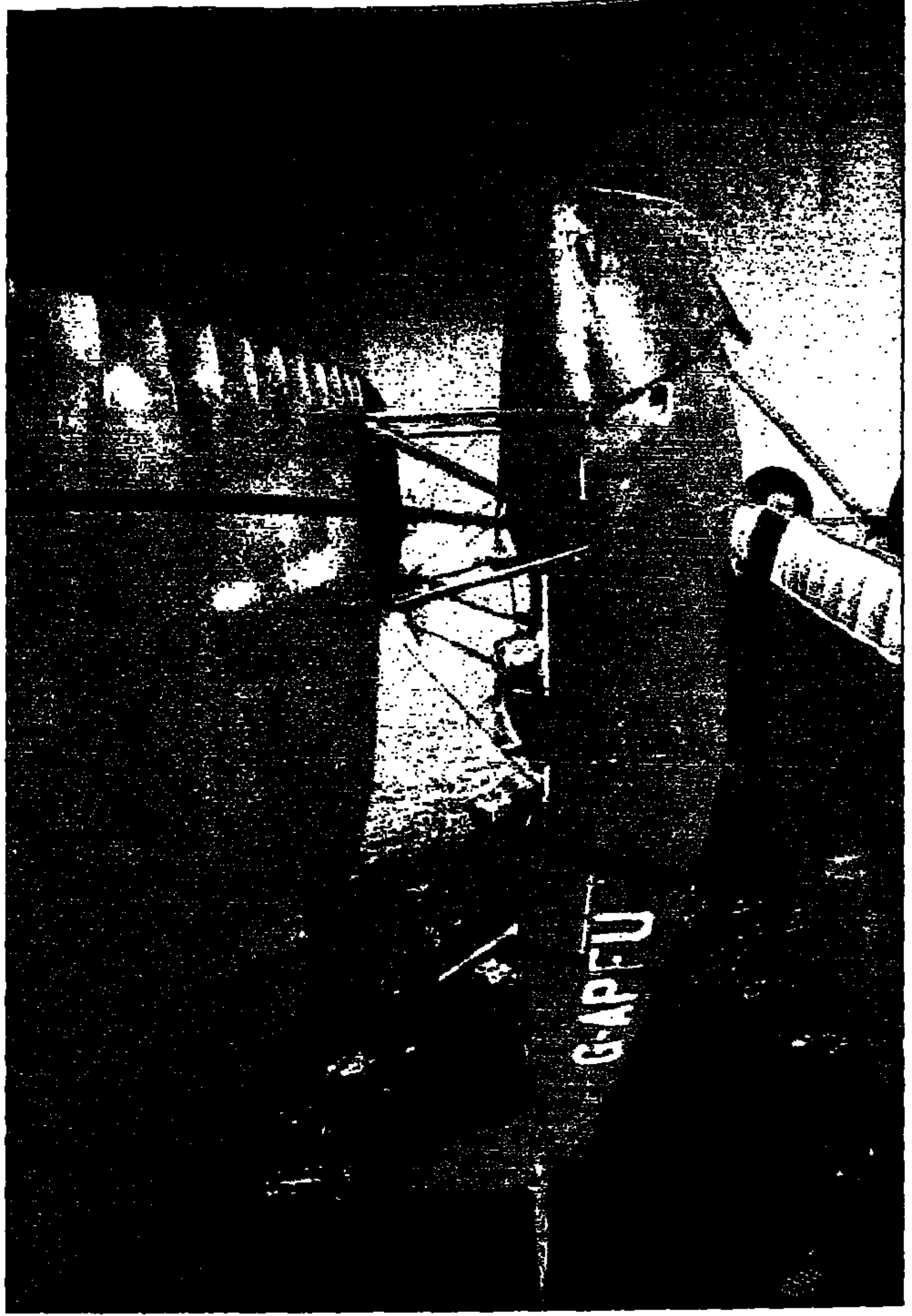
The eight-seater De Havilland Dragon Rapide, with its fine Art Deco lines, is the Orient Express of the air. Several are used for pleasure flights around Britain.

Classic Wings flies two *Rapides from Duxford airfield* in Cambridgeshire for nostal*gic sightseeing.* Air Atlantique, based at Coventry, also *runs a splendid Rapide.*

I flew with Classic Wings at a leisured 100mph above London, where we circled low over the capital's great sights. The little plane's large windows offer terrific views, but the real thrill is in tasting life from a more sedate era: like flying business class but without the boredom.

Or perhaps taking off in a big old warbird would be *more to your taste. This year* South Coast Airways is flying a Douglas *DC3 from* Biggin Hill, Kent for pleasure flights, including trips to France and to summer airshows.

MITHRAL RACING



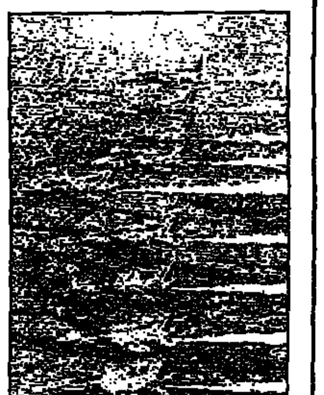
Looping the loop in a Tiger Moth is a surefire entry in a list of lifetime highs

THE AIRSHOW SEASON

WITH the summer comes the season of the airshow, arguably Britain's noisiest spectator sport. There are usually a few civilian and sporting planes buzzing around, but it's the warbirds old and new that pull the big crowds: Spitfires growl and Second World War bombers thunder, while the super*powers' latest jet-fighters* screech through improbable aerobatics. This weekend is one of the season's first major shows: Biggin Hill's 35th International Air Fair (01959 572277). Jock Maitland, the former RAF fighter pilot who has organised the Kent aerodrome's shows since the Sixties, expects a crowd of up to 100,000 people. "As well as all the aircraft, this weekend features a parade of military vehicles, a large *funfair and* about a hundred stands — *you could not get around it* in a day," says Maitland.

Among the other big flying-fests, Duxford (01223 835 000) holds its Fighter Collection Flying Legends show on July 12-13, with a sky full of classic wartime aircraft. Again the crowds are huge — 40,000 people are expected — but the Cambridgeshire airfield has the added attraction of the Imperial *War Museum's air* collection — hangars packed with *restored machines and* flying examples stripped down for *maintenance.* On August 1, it officially opens its new £11 million Norman Foster-designed American Air Museum specially created around Duxford's massive B52 jet-bomber.

If the jet fighters and bouncy castles are not your style, the Shuttleworth collection, *at Old Warden in* Bedfordshire (01767 627288) offers *a far more sedate* experience. On the first Saturday of every month until October, propeller-driven veterans from the Old Warden, Bedfordshire, *museum* potter into the air. And across the country, from Swanage to Fife, hundreds of smaller shows are busily being planned. The RAF Red Arrows (pictured) have a summer schedule includ*ing 61 displays (hotline* 0891 664424). Proceeds to Red Arrows Trust).



FLYING FACT FILE

- *Mithril Racing* offers private trial lessons on the first Saturday of each month from April to October, £120 for 15 minutes (01243 528815).
- Transport Command offers trial lessons in its Harvard, £175 for 30 minutes (01273 462784).
- Classic Wings' Dragon Rapide has one-hour flights over London costing £99.50 and its 40-minute flights over Cambridge, *Ely and* Newmarket cost £69.50 (01255 424671).
- Air Atlantique Dragon Rapide flights for 20 minutes, plus a tour lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes of its historic *collection, cost £30. Contact* Emma Collin (01203 307566).
- South Coast Airways has 20-minute flights over London in a DC3 Dakota for £39.99 (01959 540959).

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Britain: 500 years after the Cornish rebellion, Adrian Mourby finds war and peace on the border

Heroic tales from the riverbank

March of the pitchfork army: Donald Macleod's painting *Crossing the Tamar — the Cornish Rebellion* shows warriors passing Launceston Castle in 1497

Five hundred years ago this month the first great Cornish Rebellion was put down and Cornwall's defeated army limped home across the Tamar. But they were soon back, in September 1497, rallying behind Perkin Warbeck into Devon in the hope of toppling Henry VII.

It is difficult to imagine the winding Tamar valley as a frontline war zone, but in Tudor times it was an angry border, as the new-deal monarch welched on the Celtic countries that had supported him when he seized the English crown. Because the Tamar runs virtually from coast to coast, it provided a ready-made eastern boundary for the ancient Celtic kingdom. Athelstan had fixed the border there in 928AD because he was fed up with the Kernow trying to wrest Exeter from the Saxons. A trip up the Tamar is a journey through forgotten chapters in British history.

My family and I started on the Devon side in Plymouth because from here you can effect the most spectacular road crossing of the Tamar, travelling into Cornwall alongside Brunel's curiously hooped railway bridge of 1859. A century before, Daniel Defoe had crossed by ferry. The author had not trusted the crossing and recorded: "I thought myself well escaped when I set foot safe in Cornwall."

Entering Cornish territory by the modern Tamar Bridge, drivers will discover that the road and river immediately part company. It is a tribute to the importance of the Tamar in southern Cornwall that all roads seem to lead to it but none runs parallel. The river alone once did the important job of transporting heavy loads north and south. The web of local lanes only come alongside the Tamar to unload at isolated shorelines. We reached one of these, Halton Quay, by turning off the A388 and following signs to a tranquil hamlet with a tiny chapel where, according to legend, St Intract and his sister, St Dominicka, landed from Ireland during the Dark Ages to bring the Cornish back to Christianity. They did a good job because Cornwall is littered with holy wells and early Celtic crosses.

North of Halton Quay stands Cotehele, a manor that John Betjeman once described as "the least changed mediaeval house in Britain". At Cotehele the Cornish, under Sir Richard Edgcumbe, came out for Buckingham in his revolt against Richard III (the troublesome Cornish were at odds with most English monarchs), but when the king's men arrived, Edgcumbe tricked his pursuers by pretending to dive into the Tamar. At the place where he had thrown his hat — as a decoy — to float in the river, the owner of Cotehele built a chapel to commemorate that narrow escape, and you can visit it today. Farther upriver stands Launceston, the ancient capital of Cornwall, which can be reached by several picturesque routes. If you prefer the back roads, an Ordnance Survey (Landranger 201) is essential. We took an indirect route via St Ann's Chapel and west along the A390 to arrive at Horsebridge. The river has seen much history here, including a bloody encounter between the royalists and parliamentarians in 1644. Having spent many centuries resisting English kings, the Cornish finally threw in their lot with Charles I during the Civil War because of their dogged adherence to Catholicism.

Crossing the bridge into Devon, the first sight is the Royal Inn. Although not an ideal stopping place for a family — unfriendly signs prevent children entering various bits of this ancient inn — the Royal does serve wonderful ale which is made in its own dinky brewery. We continued along the Devon side of the Tamar through Milton Abbot and Liftondown, the roads winding farther away from the river. One advantage of staying so long on the Devon side is that you can re-enter Cornwall at Polson Bridge, just east of Launceston. In 1643, Polson was the site of another Civil War battle. The royalists won on this occasion, but they lost the replay in 1646.

Since the 14th century, the first son of the English monarch (also known as the Duke of Cornwall) has been presented with a riding cloak on this bridge when he makes his first entry into the duchy.

Launceston ought to be a good place to visit. There is a town trail to follow if you want to see the curious carved church of St Mary — which looks as if it has been tattooed all over — or view the remains of the castle Sir Breville Grenville defended against the Parliamentarians, but I've always found the town depressing. It needs more money spent on it.

As we headed north towards the Tamar's source, the A388 remained verdant. It was late afternoon, so at Bridgetown we headed for the B3254 in search of cream teas. The emptiness of North Cornwall soon became apparent and it wasn't until Kilhampton (some 27 miles) that we spotted Clifton House, a friendly roadside cottage which served four of us for £5.

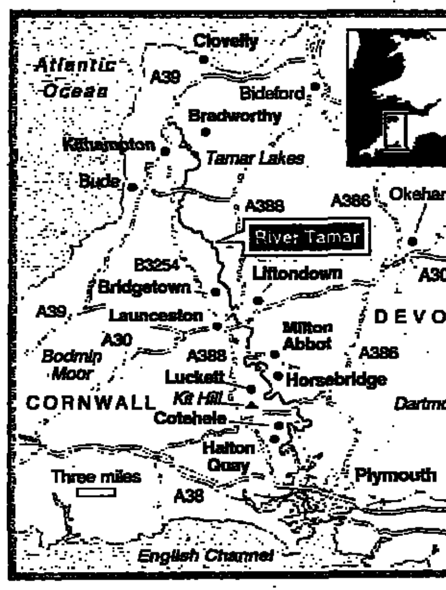
There is nowhere obvious to stay in this part of North Cornwall so we spent the night in the Devon fishing village of Clovelly. The New Inn here is as ancient as the rest of this famous village. It is pricey but worth a visit. The next morning we resumed our search for the source of the Tamar.

Six miles south of Clovelly on the A39 we re-entered Cornwall and immediately to the left found a road leading across Woolly Moor that is signposted Bradworthy. At grid reference SS 271 166 (Landranger 190) a muddy accumulation of water skulks off into the bushes. This is the beginning of the Tamar, named after the fabled goddess who was changed into a river by her father because she rejected all her suitors. No one was interested enough to get out of the car and look. We took the A39 back towards Plymouth, calling in on the Tamar Lakes Water Park — which is a pleasant enough spot to buy coffee and even fish — then on the B3254 back to Launceston, which was looking closed and very grim in the Sunday lunchtime rain. Fortunately, my wife had bought sandwiches and by the time we reached Kit Hill on the A388, the sun had come out enough for us to find a view where we could eat them.

Kit Hill is a huge granite cylinder which the Tamar has carved off from Dartmoor. The ancient Kernow once lived atop this 1,000ft mound and in the Civil War the king's loyal Cornishmen invested it to await a Parliamentarian attack that never came. Having finally breached the Tamar, the English army bypassed this fortified hill and subdued the Cornish elsewhere.

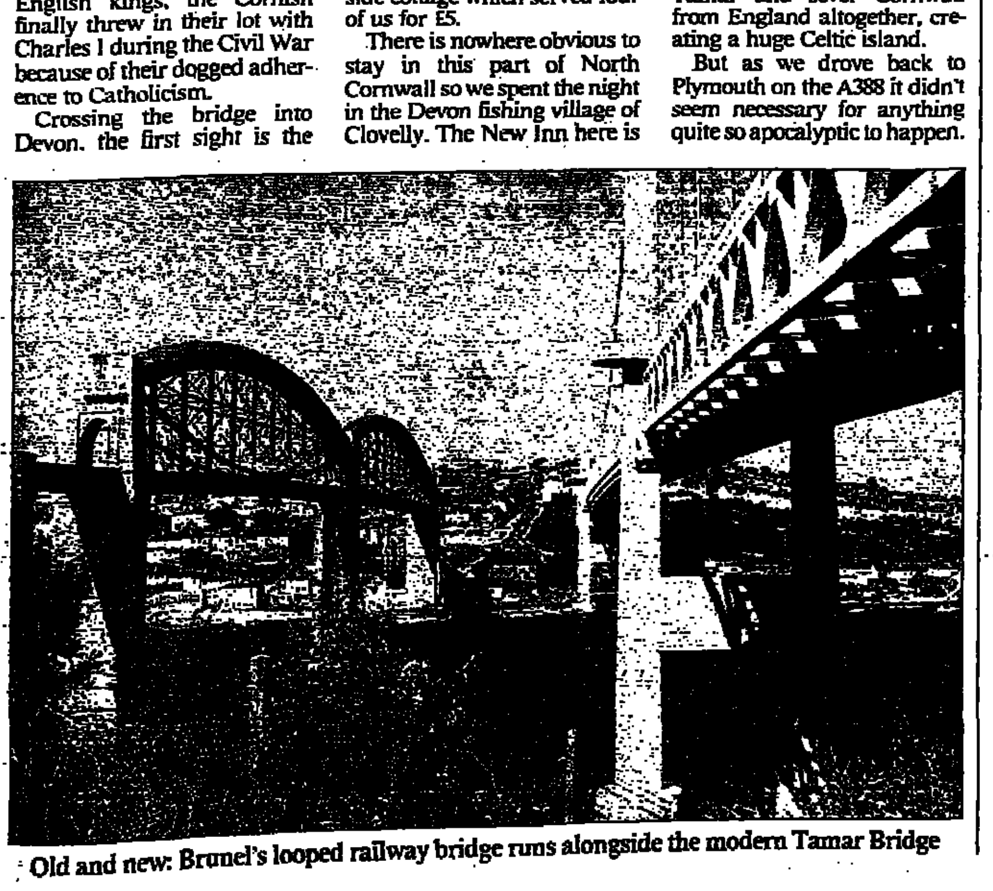
From the top of Kit Hill on a clear day the view is wonderful. I could see all the way back to Tamar Lakes and that muddy moorland rivulet. Nationalists point out that a prolonged burst of global warming would raise sea levels sufficiently to flood the Tamar and sever Cornwall from England altogether, creating a huge Celtic island.

But as we drove back to Plymouth on the A388 it didn't seem necessary for anything quite so apocalyptic to happen.



FACT FILE

- Make an early start if you are spending the weekend travelling the Tamar. Try staying overnight in Plymouth Hoe. The Forte Hotel on Cliff Road (01752 662828) has family rooms from £69, and a jolly family restaurant. The Waterfront (01752 226326), has great views across the harbour. Good food can be found at Cotehele, St Dominick, nr Saltash (01579 350434), and good ale at the Royal Inn, Horsebridge (01822 870214).
- The New Inn, High Street, Clovelly (01237 431303), has B&B family rooms for £110 per night.
- If you don't want to spend two days tracing the source of the Tamar, a one-day excursion can be made of the valley's southern section by going direct from Plymouth to Cotehele, then Kit Hill, Horsebridge and Polson Bridge, Launceston, and back to Plymouth.
- An exhibition of documents and artefacts relating to the Cornish uprising of 1497 is running until July 19 at the Public Records Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey. Open 9.30am-5.30pm Monday to Friday. Free.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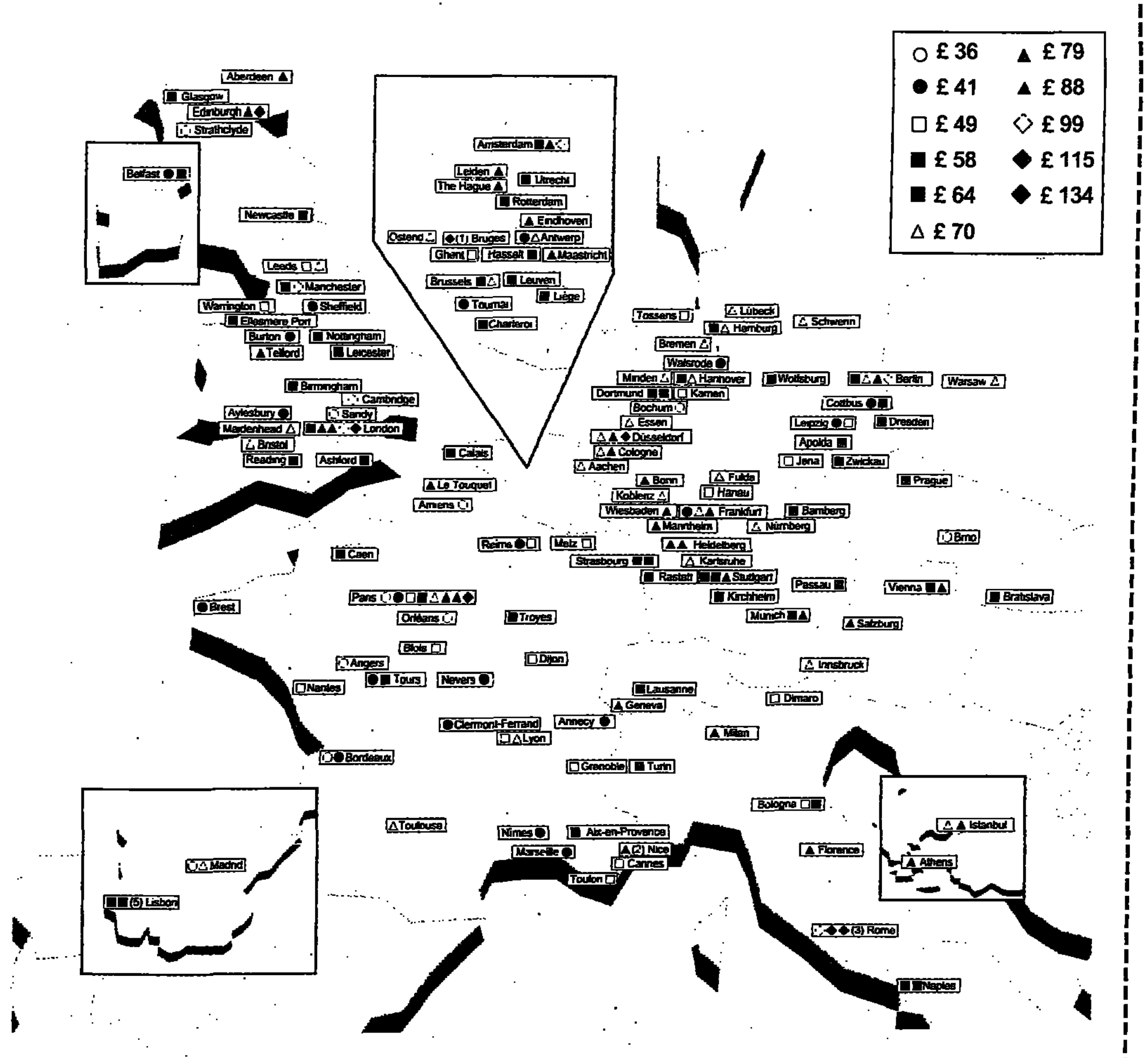

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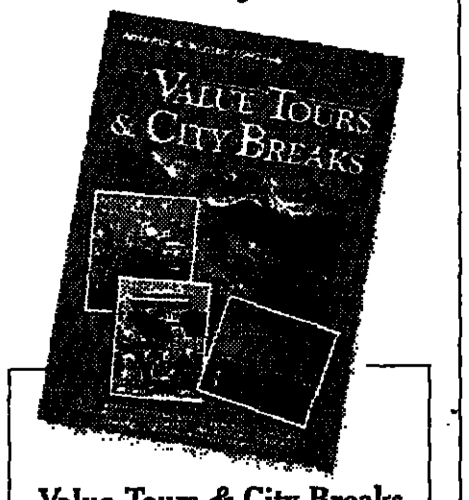

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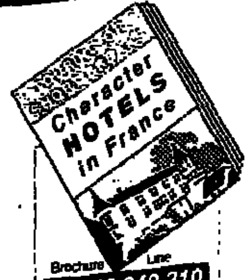

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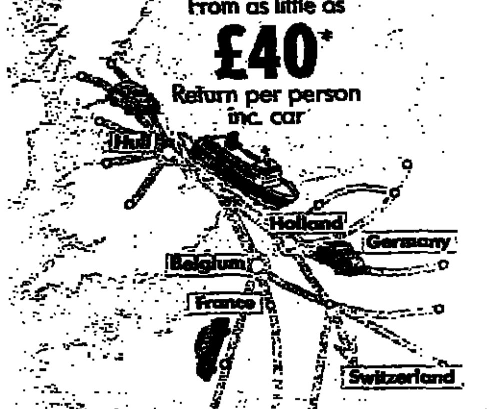

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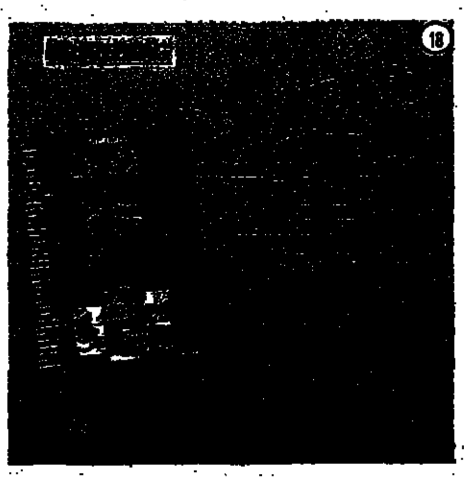

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

HOWARD STAUNTON is known not just as one of Britain's greatest chess players, but also as the originator of the Staunton-pattern chess pieces, now the norm in all national and international competitions. Additionally, he was a most active organiser, masterminding the first international tournament — held at London in 1851. As a writer of books and chess columns he was second to none. If one realises also that Staunton had been a Shakespearean actor, produced his own three-volume edition of Shakespeare's works and was engaged on a history of the British educational system when he died, it becomes clear that here was a towering renaissance personality who fortunately turned his talents towards chess.

It was a disgrace that no fitting memorial to Staunton existed. For decades he has lain in an unmarked grave at Kensal Green cemetery, north London. In 1993 the Staunton Society was formed to rectify this injustice and I am pleased to announce that on Monday July 28 at 11am a polished black granite monument in his honour, designed by Barry Martin, the artist, will be unveiled at Kensal Green. Later that day, the summer dinner of the Staunton Society, attended by masters, grand masters and VIPs of the chess world, will be held at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, the 19th-century home of chess and one of Staunton's frequent haunts.

Here is a fine game from the match which many regard as having elevated Staunton to the status of unofficial world champion.

White: Staunton; Black: Saint Amant
Paris, Match (2nd game) 1843
Benoni Defence

1 d4 c5 2 d5 f5
3 Nf3 d6 4 Nc3 Nf6
5 Bg5 e5

Black's opening looks dubious, combining the worst features of the Benoni and Dutch Defences. However, recent investigations by grandmaster Jonathan Levitt have proved that it may be playable.

6 e4

Even stronger is 6 dxe6 Bxe6 7 e4.

6 ... a6

This is much too slow. Both 6 ... f4 and 6 ... h6 are superior.

7 exf5 Bxf5 8 Nh4 Bc8
9 Bd3 g6

To stop occupation of f5 but now the pin on f6 becomes acute.

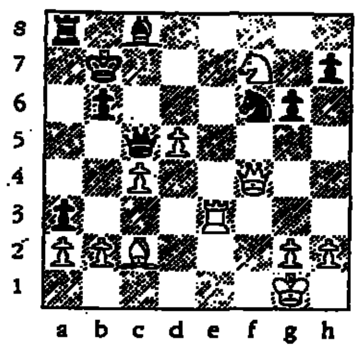
10 0-0 Be7 11 f4 c4
12 Bxc4 exf4

Saint Amant's original intention had probably been to play 12 ... Qb6+, but now he realises that 13 Kh1 Qxb2 14 fxe5 would be suicidal for Black.

13 Rxf4 Nbd7 14 Qd4 Ne5
15 Re1 Nfd7 16 Bxe7 Qxe7
17 Ne4 Rf8 18 Rxf8+ Qxf8
19 Nxd6+

This move essentially crushes Black's resistance since 19 ... Qxd6 fails to 20 Nf3 when the e-file pin ensures that White will emerge two pawns ahead.

19 ... Kd8 20 Rxe5 Qxd6
21 Re3 Kc7 22 Bb3 a5
23 Nf3 Nf6 24 c4 b6
25 Ne5 a4 26 Bc2 a3
27 Nf7 Qc5 28 Qf4+ Kb7



Black tries one last desperate throw to disrupt White's queenside phalanx, but now Staunton strikes him down with a series of finely conceived tactics.

29 b4 Nh5

If 29 ... Qxb4 30 Qxf6 wins.

30 Nd8+ Ka6 31 bxc5 Nxf4
32 Rxa3 checkmate

If you wish to attend the unveiling ceremony for the Staunton monument or the Staunton Society summer dinner (£25), contact Barry Martin, 98 Cole Park Road, Twickenham TW1 1JA (0181-744 2868).

WINNING MOVE

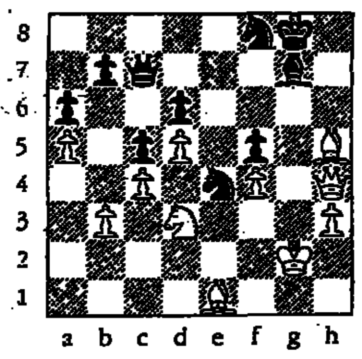
By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Damljanovic - Popovic, Yugoslavia 1997. White has just retreated his bishop to e1. This was very careless. Can you see why?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxd6

Last week's winner: M Russell, Blandford, Dorset.



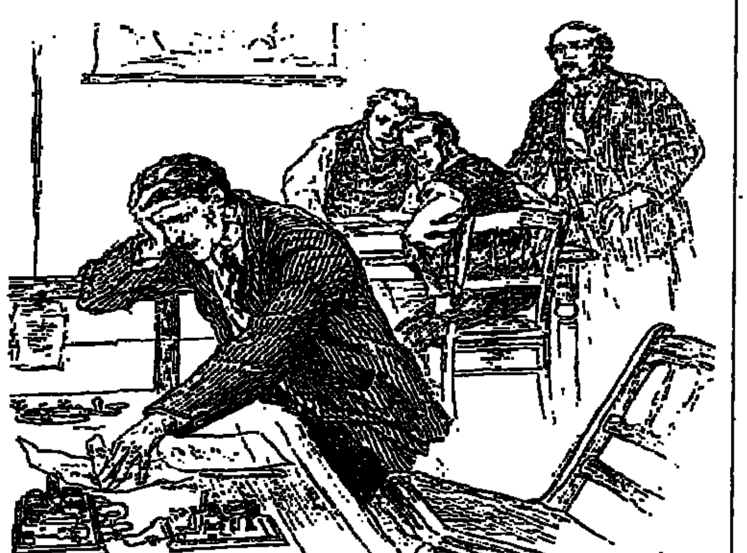
PUNCHLINE

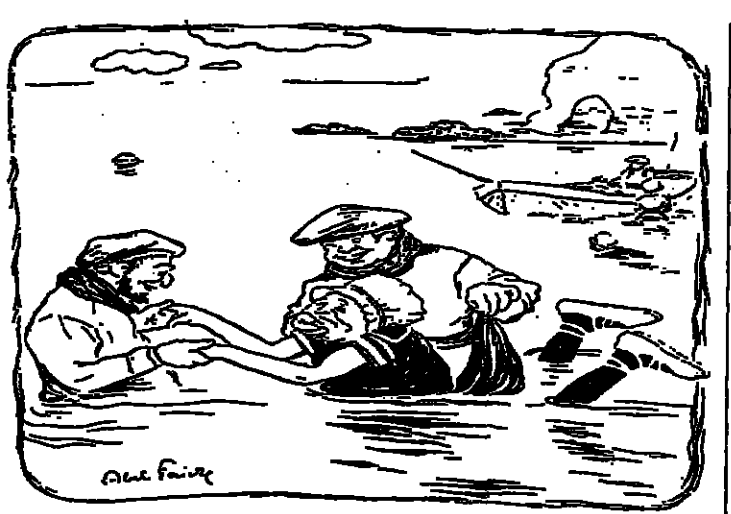
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 56, *The Times*,
1 Pennington Street,
London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, June 18.





The launching of Granny Spice was just a publicity stunt

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Marion Jacks of Telscombe Cliffs, Sussex

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SPONG
a. A children's card game
b. An arsenical compound
c. A piece of land

NOCKERL
a. A word game
b. A shot at Curling
c. A dumpling

NOCK
a. A small fish
b. Part of a bow
c. To misfire

NUMINAL
a. Divine
b. Nominated
c. Numbered

Answers on page 17

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE EUROPEAN Championships start tomorrow, in Montecatini Terme, Italy, and continue for two weeks. The British Open team is Gus Calderwood and Dick Shek, Justin and Jason Hackett and Gerald and Stuart Tredinnick, with Tony Priday non-playing captain (NPC) and David Burn coach. This will be the Hackett twins' first European, although they played in the 1996 Olympiad. The other two pairs have not finished higher than seventh in their previous outings, so the team may find it hard to clinch one of the qualifying spots (the first five) for the Bermuda Bowl.

The Ladies team's chances look much brighter. Nicola Smith, Pat Davies and Sandra Landy are previous winners of the world championship and the other players, Liz McGowan and Heather Dhondy, and Michele Handley are all experienced. The NPC is Jimmie Arthur, and Brian Senior is coach.

Liz McGowan won the Solomon Award for the best played hand of 1992. It occurred in a match between Britain and Austria.

Dealer South Love All IMPs

North: ♠A 10 3 ♥Q 10 4 ♦A 6 5 3 ♣A 5 4
West: ♠K Q J 8 7 2 ♥J 8 7 3 ♦10 9 ♣7
East: ♠9 6 5 4 ♥- ♦Q 8 7 4 2 ♣K Q J 9
South: ♠- ♥A K 9 6 5 2 ♦K J ♣10 8 6 3 2

Contract: Six Hearts by South
Lead: king of spades

Vigorous pre-emption by East-West pushed North-South too high:

W	N	E	S
-	-	-	1 H
2 S(1)	Dble(2)	4 S	5 C
Pass	6 H	All Pass	

(1) week (2) Negative

Liz McGowan ruffed the spade lead, cashed the king of hearts, finessed the ten of hearts, cashed the queen of hearts and ace of spades throwing a club, finessed the jack of diamonds and then ran the trumps to leave this the ending:

North: ♠10 ♥- ♦A 6 5 ♣A 5
West: ♠Q J 8 7 ♥- ♦10 ♣7
East: ♠- ♥- ♦Q 8 7 ♣K Q 9
South: ♠- ♥9 ♦K ♣10 8 6 3

Notice the importance of keeping the king of diamonds in hand. That was critical for communication between the North-South hands.

On the last trump dummy threw a spade and East had no answer. If she throws a diamond, declarer cashes the king of diamonds and crosses to the ace of clubs to cash dummy's two winning diamonds. If East throws a club, ace and another club establishes two long clubs in the South hand, with the king of diamonds as entry - the ace of diamonds is no longer needed.

● Reports of the European championships will appear in the daily column in Sport.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

ONE of the world's most powerful cars is a Ford. The Ford GT90 is the automotive giant's first supercar effort since the GT40 Mk III racer of the sixties. It uses innovative modular engine technology that permits fusing sections of two separate engines together to produce a hybrid powerplant capable of generating 720 horsepower and speeds of over 220mph.

Heat from the exhaust can reach 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit, so ceramic insulation tiles similar to those on the US Space Shuttle keep the car's body from melting. But this is a car which is even outside the pocket of a Camelot director since it remains a prototype. However, rich or poor, you can take one for a spin in Electronic Arts' masterful **Need for Speed II.**

The Ford GT90, with its menacing demeanour, is the jewel in the crown of this majestic sequel. The nine other cars lay claim to a bunch of equally impressive statistics, with an up-to-date selection including the hand-built, gull-wing-doored Isdera Commendatore 112i, the limited edition five-speed Jaguar XJ220, the six-speed V-8 twin turbo Lotus GT1, the Formula 1 inspired Ferrari F50 and the 0-60-in-3.2-seconds McLaren F1.

The cars are only part of the stylish appeal of this revamped title. The courses sparkle, too. Most straightforward is Norway's 3.2 mile racing circuit, the only place you can drive with the accelerator pedal slammed permanently against the floor.

The other courses are much more demanding. Australia's 4.7 mile route takes in both the tower blocks of Sydney and the vast canyons of the country's scorching Outback. Northern Europe features a clutch of complementary sights, like windmills and a fairytale castle, in a course which also has nasty bends with lethal switchbacks. The five-mile Canadian track motors through cityscape and rain forest, yet the most treacherous encounters are to be found in Nepal with its remote, cloud-piercing mountainous route.

The graphics in Need For Speed II are breathtakingly beautiful, so inviting you may want to chug along slowly some days just to take in the stunning views. The obstacle-ridden courses include villages, flooded bridges, several prolonged tunnels and large wooden crates which litter some stretches of road. Of course, it's when the backgrounds and obstacles are flashing past hysterically fast that they work to best effect.

The graphics in Need For Speed II are breathtakingly beautiful

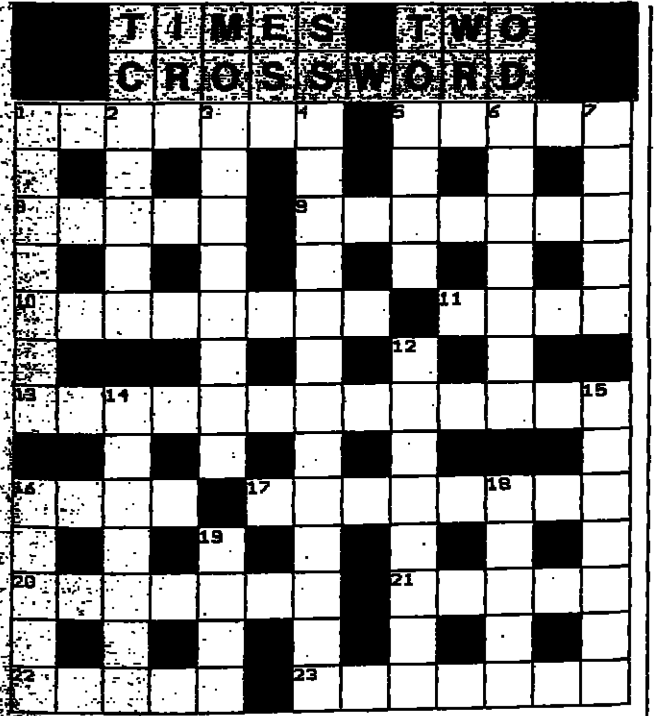
Based around a totally new game engine, this is currently the most powerful four-wheel racer you'll find outside of the arcade. Given the choice of beefier racers plus infinitely more difficult routes, Electronic Arts had to find a way to still make it welcoming to novices. The answer is a choice of three difficulty levels. Another addition complements the all-important footbrake, a handbrake. Everything about this title is slicker, even cancelling the thudding music track is noticeably quicker.

First time around, as well as circuits, some races covered straight courses divided into three contrasting sections. Now all the courses are complete circuits, which must be raced over a minimum of two laps, and this, sadly, does away with any feelings that you are making an authentic mad-cap, life-endangering dash on public roads. The original title came out over two years ago, first on the now near-obsolete 3DO system before turning up on most other formats. Need For Speed II has been released initially for Sony PlayStation and PC, running Windows 95. It works well on both but looks best on the PlayStation, since you can sit right back from the screen to fully soak up those sumptuous graphics. Of all the console games stacked untidily around my television for the last few years, Need For Speed was certainly the one played most — on the Sega Saturn to boot. I rarely beat my taxi-driving mate Dave who makes an awesome racing opponent. He, too, delights in the impressive sequel which has all the indications of sitting high in the pile for several years more.

Then Dave came up with what is, to my mind, a superb idea for Need for Speed III. "What we really want next," he confided, "is the chance to race the world's most luxurious cars on open roads, like Bentleys and Rolls Royces. Either that, or stretch limousines and juggernaut lorries." Don't forget, you read these ideas first in *The Times.*

A reminder that every Top Tip published wins its author a current Microsoft PC title. Submissions please, along with all your other correspondence, to Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. This week's Top Tip comes from John Rushton of west London: "Save on valuable disc space by putting your monitor screen face down on a photocopier and taking paper copies of files before deleting them."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1120

ACROSS
River-race festival (7)
Theme (5)
Ensemble; pop band (5)
Well behaved; 5 *dn* (7)
One from the capital (8)
Spurn (lover) (4)
Police etc entry authority (6,7)
Peak; horn of moon (4)
Throttle (8)
Restrict, imprison (7)
Public, open (5)
Ghana capital (5)
Relaxation of tension (7)

DOWN
1 Punic War general; Leo star (7)
2 Part of body; vault intersection (5)
3 First-rate (3-5)
4 With all ideas exhausted (2,4,4,3)
5 Neat (4)
6 "Lost" girl (*Winter's Tale*) (7)
7 Room under church (5)
12 Erupt; escape (prison) (5,3)
14 A poison: *can rise* (*anag.*) (7)
15 Playhouse (7)
16 (Oft. bedtime) drink (5)
18 Gather (odd bits) (5)
19 Travel permit (4)

…UTION TO NO 1119
…OSS: 6 Prevail 7 Heath 9 Loner 10 Grosser 11 Coun… 14 Uninhabited 17 Draught 19 Truro 21 Rural …oodlum
…WN: 1 Dean 2 Bayreuth 3 Slight 4 Ohio 5 Pass… 6 Pulp 8 Harold 11 Chivalry 12 Rotation 13 Sun… 15 Bitchy 16 Foam 18 Gill 20 Ugly

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3414: 36I – The 31 by Hellphire

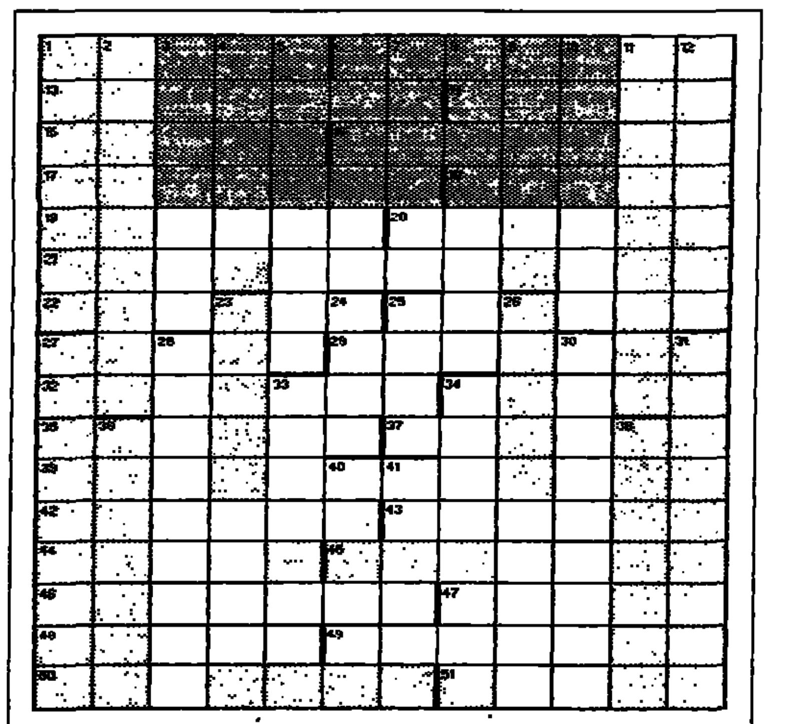
DOWN ANSWERS in the 2x16 shaded columns on either side of the grid are entered normally (including the two titular entries, which are otherwise unclued). All other answers, being indecisive, are entered in jumbled form.

When this is done, a quotation (whose word breaks do not coincide with the grid bars) will appear in the 8x4 section at the top of the grid, and four appropriate instruments of torture can be seen through the arch thus formed.

The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations (4th edition) and *Chambers* (1993) are recommended.

ACROSS
1 Mixture of light crust and puff (5)
6 One longs to get letters (7)
13 Bent double, dropping tee, clearing away leaves at Troon? (7)
14 "Ring" for one? Not just one work (5)
15 Abrupt change of direction by one traveller (5)
16 Pronounced, I see, like onomatopoeia? (7)
17 Take courage and try red wine, wasting time (7)
18 The money at risk is the total receipts (5)
19 Unspiritual Scots miser keeps one back (6)
20 They measure pearls cast — not half — before swine (6)
21 Prickly plant in earth this little piggy brought back (12, 2 words)
22 Old walrus chasing a tailless fish into local drain (6, 2 words)
25 It's heartless keeping daughter tied up? (6)
27 Lakes for sailors in Navy? On the contrary (5)
29 Test I have set primarily for these reasons (7)
32 One's no good after dropping winter sport (7)
34 Two men and a humble char (5)
35 One who longs to grasp carpentry initially is gripping tool (6)
37 Rewards compliance in spies (6)
39 One destroying old list held back, wanting to retain name within (12)
42 Obese lady pops (6)
43 Feasible one can enter sea with punts? (6)
44 Put down weak parrot-like performance (5)
45 Temporary dwellings: excellent in the majority of crowded conditions (7)
46 Copper to provide entertainment around court house (7)
47 Produce sport, having trained outside (5)
48 Shrinks existed to protect nutty eccentrics, primarily (5)
49 Model secretary suffered (7)
50 Biblical book? Not book they establish as true (7)
51 One word meaning 'attention' (almost archaic) (5)

DOWN
1 Scoundrel almost destroyed Italian magistracy (7)
2 A bit of a cell containing a queen is the start of success for us (9)
3 Foolish mum let... (7)
4 .. children endlessly provoke menopause (6)
5 Songs are able to cross boundaries of nations, enthralling one (8)
6 Purely temporary in a Conservative government (6)
7 See — constellation alters (6)
8 Fence's partner is trouble (8)
9 Beer? Teetotaller's into that, by the sound of it! (6)
10 Fruit's speed of descent, we hear (7)
11 Dismiss clergy in penitential garb (9)
12 Spelaeologist, doffing helmet, grabs stone — it may contain iron (7)
23 Defeated in public argument in outskirts of Hendon (10)
24 To wit, horse (name needed) (4)
25 Remove top from instant pudding (4)
26 Versatile manual worker all but confines cattle (10)
27 Desire, perhaps, revealed by St. Austin? (9)
28 Coaches left without one? Then one will need another form of this! (9)
30 After early struggle, a fiddler becomes one who sounds like Bell (9)
33 A bird to bag brass rings? (8)
34 Chemicals in food give a touch of poisoning to Bell Major (8)
38 Present holder of chair at Heriot-Watt not entirely able (7)
40 Aquatic polyzoan — millions are clogging base (6, 2 words)
41 Blanket charge accepted by judge (6)



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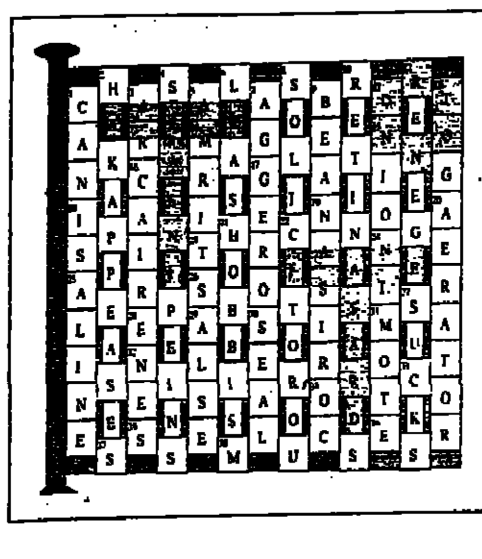

Solution to No 3311: Chequered Flag by The Tall'n

The 11 related answers can all be described as WHEELS. Two — CHARKA and CASTOR — are types of wheel, the others come under the definition of wheels as "personal transport". Eight of them are makes and models of car, past and present — MORRIS, (Seat) Malaga, (Hillman) SINGER and (Alfa Romeo) SPRINT from the past; NISSAN, (Toyota) CARINA, (Ford) ESCORT and (Lada) SAMARA from the present. These ten answers, entered in clockwise circles, as are all circuit answers, have at their centre squares which join together to form the letters T.T. The Isle of Man Tourist Trophy has become famous as a major international motor cycling event since its inception on May 28, 1907. It was a NORTON motor cycle which won the first twin-cylinder race and then went on to dominate the Senior T.T. event in the years leading up to the Second World War.

The winner is: F.Bailey of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

The five runners up are: H.Lawson of Edinburgh, A.Alman of Blackpool, Lancs; A.& M. Hidges of Bolton, Lancashire; C. Hodges of Folkestone, Kent.

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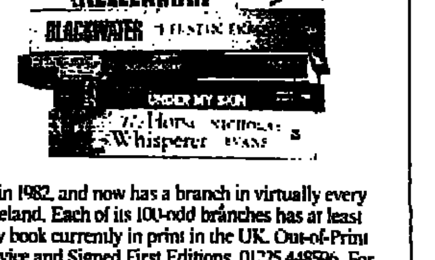

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ALONE? Living in the Cambridge Enfield Hertford or London areas? Meet other nice people by joining Elite Introductions For your local office call 0181 374 4001 or 0500 103410

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

ARE you aged 40-60 living in Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Swindon, Glos, Somerset or S. Wales? Are you seeking that 'special lady'? Look no further, let us help you meet her. Individual selective introductions. Please contact *Perfect Partners of Bath* tel 01225 482080

ASIAN Chinese lady (36) seeks successful man for friendship. *Plse reply* with photo.Bx5622 ✍

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, solvent, widow 65+ presently living in Spain but willing to relocate, seeks kind, unattached gentleman *69+*, car owner, preferably retired officer or professional gentleman for sincere friendship. Please Reply to Box No 5604 ✍

ATTRACTIVE well travelled prof woman, 39, privately educated. Interests entertaining, tennis & golf, the arts. WLTM tall prof man GSOH, 40 +, similar background. Photo to Box 5680 ✍

AUBURN-HAIRED English Rose (London based), uncomplicated & playful, seeks tall, confident & caring man, 35+, to share summer evenings, opera, tennis & laughter. Box No 5636 ✍

AVON area calling - unattached interesting man sought by diverse lively group of professional 30something women at informal summer gathering for future friendship, fun & frolics. Please Reply to Box No 5614 ✍

BLACK, slim, attractive, cheerful, 34, WLTM tall, sociable, n/s prof male. London/surrounding *Counties Reply Box No 5388* ☎ ✍

BLONDE with brains, 30's, slim, attractive, vibrant, perceptive, busy career, seeks prof. single male, 33-45 with style, integrity, wit & warmth. SouthWest/London/Mids. Please Reply *with photo to Box No 5643* ☎ ✍

BRIGHT, intelligent, attractive E. Midlands lady with young outlook. Enjoys good conversation, dining out or quiet evenings in, theatre, reading & good films. Seeks sincere caring prof gentleman *48-63. Photo* appreciated. Box No 5533 ✍

CHARMING sweet girl, 25, attractive, tall, slim, with beautiful daughter aged 7, looking for long term happy relationship. ALA Photo appreciated London. Please Reply to Box No 5564 ✍

CHEERFUL Newcastle lady, professional, mid 40's, solvent, adores Northumbrian Coast, enjoys most music, theatre, long walks. WLTM down-to-earth, GSOH man with integrity 45+. Reply to Box No 5543 ✍

CHOOSY? So are we. The UK's top unattached join The Executive Club of St James's

DRIVE *to France, lady wishes gentleman to accompany her possibly* September/October. Shared expenses/driving. Your age 55-62, single, n/s. photo appreciated. Oxon, Northants, Bucks, Warwick. Box No 5637 ☎ ✍

FIT *lady, Herts based,* with varied interests, slim, smart & seemingly has everything except someone to share fun times with. If you are sincere, tallish, fit, & between 50-60, do reply with photo to Box No 5537 ✍

GENTLEMAN - too busy to find romance? We have over 500 ladies with style, all local in West Midlands/Warwickshire call Elite introductions - 7 days 0121 323 3314

HARROGATE, York & Yorkshire deserve the best? Executive Club call E.C. 07000 499 8833

IF your *ideal* woman is organised yet scatty, adventurous, usually responsible, caring & 50, write. Other assets include humour, love of art, music, walking & football. Berkshire based, Photo irrelevant, honesty & integrity vital. Box No 5652 ✍

INTELLIGENT lively, attractive female, GSOH enjoys antiques, travel, sport, wining and dining. Seeks slim, thoughtful gentleman 45-55 GSOH essential. *Photo* appreciated. *London/* Surrey. Box No 5659 ☎ ✍

IS there a man out there who can provide me with laughter, good company, an intellectual challenge & perhaps, love? If the chemistry is right, all these will be returned in good measure. I am 50, tall, slim & attractive, you will be *47-65*, interesting, active & successful. Kent. Reply Box No 5606 ☎ ✍

JUST good friends, perhaps romance. Feminine, attractive woman, retired lawyer, seeks smart, caring, cultured prof man 60's, 5'9"+, *Herts/ Bucks/* surrounds. Photo (?) Box 5463 ✍

KENT/Bromley/SE London. Looking for that special person? Why make 100 calls when one will do. Call Elite Introductions 0181 658 7576

KIND, *caring, intelligent* woman with GSOH enjoys good standard of living, travel, skiing, reading and the arts. Own house in SW6 but would love to move to the country. *Has* reached mid 30s and would like a home and family and seeks prof. n/s man having *similar interests* Bx 5668 ☎ ✍

NORTHWEST Attractive woman, professional, mid 40's. Independent *but caring personality*, seeks nice man for outings & possible relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5542 ☎ ✍

NOTTS/*Leics/Lincs* Success after success for gentlemen. Elite get closer .. Call now for free details 0115 937 6104

PHYSICALLY attractive, sophisticated, independent country bred lady, slim blonde, *5'6"*, wicked sense of humour. Loves sunshine & laughter. WLTM tall, good looking gentleman who appreciates quality interested in country pursuits, travel, wining/dining & picnics, *42-55.* Cheshire/Shrops/N. Wales. Reply to Box No 5683. ☎ ✍

RAVISHING redhead, 29, tall, slim, intelligent, vivacious, warm, stylish Kiwi - lives in *London*. Seeks dashing, daring, desirable single caring male. *Photo* please to Box No 5658 ✍

RICHMOND to Runnymede, Kew to Denham (all TW/UB postcodes) seeking that special person? let us help. Call Linda at Elite 0181 580 0028: 7 days

RUBENESQUE English Rose, high powered but romantic with lovely life & friends seeks a successful, tall, confident man 35-45 - for now & forever. *Photo* essential. Londonbased. Please Reply to Box No 5545 ✍

SCORPIO lady, 60, graduate from the University of Life WLTM sincere and loyal gentleman 50-60 maximum. London/ Surrey Reply Box No 5562 ✍

STRIKING self-made, multi-faceted, honest, cerebral, emotional, mum/business woman/author, 41, smoker, WLTM 6ft guy 43-50 of similar standing/background who enjoys laughter, affection, food, wine, theatre, walks, etc. Photo please. Box No 5603 ✍

STUNNING professional fit female, 30, own house and car seeks handsome genuinely single gentleman interested in travel, dining out and having fun. 30-45. *Notts area*. Letter & photo appreciated Box 5646 ☎ ✍

STUNNING stylish, petite blonde, very slim, N/S, SW London WLTM gorgeous, fit male counterpart 36-44 for first class fun & romance. Photo & tel no essential. Reply to Box No 5578 ✍

SURREY Men (KT/TW/GU) for our extensive ladies membership call Mike at Close Encounters 01932 783165: open 7 days

TALL attractive professional, but is he honest, unmarried, ready to settle & sincere? We screen our all new members *before* you meet them. E.C.

TALL, elegant, sophisticated artist, enjoying retirement WLTM active gentleman who would appreciate wining & dining, theatre, holidays, country walks, art galleries with a fun, lively lady. Midlands. Please Reply with photo to Box 5584 ✍

WEST COUNTRY and South Wales. Local Introductions - personal service - top quality professionals. Tel Caroline Crowther 01179 736877

WIDOW, amusing, slim, described as attractive, impeccable background, seeks tall, country loving, gentleman in *his 60's*, ex public school, similar background, country house Home Counties, pied a terre London, maison secondaire France. Enjoys travel, theatre, the sea & sun, & stimulating conversation. Seeking a good friend with whom to enjoy the above. Photograph & telephone number appreciated. Box 5629 ✍

WINSOME widow, articulate, curvaceous, lively with some style, WLTM well groomed successful caring man, 50-60, mature of mind & young of heart. Photo appreciated. NorthWest. Please Reply to Box No 5429 ✍

ZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday & *Sunday Call free 0800 141 141*

YORKSHIRE lady just the right side of 50, standard middle class model with luxury trim seeks similar male either side *of 50 to share fun, laughter &* mutual TLC. *Photograph* would be appreciated. Box No 5612 ☎ ✍

WARM, witty, intelligent, tall professional redhead, mid 30s. Real woman - definitely no girlie - passionate, feminine & incurably romantic with a very soft centre. Seeks tall, single strong self reliant 'verbal sparing partner' and best friend. Eclectic hobbies & taste including theatre, cinema, cooking, Mozart, Meatloaf, football etc. Midlands/ elsewhere. Photo please to Box No 5532 ✍

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ABOUT to start my life again in London/Oxon. Avid countryman -horseracing, flyfishing, shooting - but equally happy in town - adores classical music, theatre, comedy, enjoys most things with gusto, even cooking. Successful, slim, fit, 5'10", a romantic at heart who would like to share the rollercoaster that is life with a self reliant, smart, attractive lady, under 50, with an exceptional sense of humour. *Photo* plse. Bx5620 ✍

ANDOVER/Salisbury. 25 mile radius. We're all waiting for you at Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open 7 days

CHRISTIAN professional male, *50. 5ft 11 inches*, 12 stone. Travel, hill climbing, the countryside, sports, chess, classical music. N/S. I seek a female (similar background) 35 to 45 for companionship and possible permanent relationship. Please write with photo to Box No. 5648 ✍

CLARE from Salisbury. You didn't leave a phone *number* (5172)! Please call again

CREATIVE and musical man looking for new partner, 41, attractive, tall, slim, fit. ALA. *Photo* please. London based Box 5563 ✍

DO you enjoy conversation and warm tactile company? 32 yr old relaxed chap, successful in his career, intelligent and thoughtful would like to meet his lady counterpart; London. Please Reply to Box No 5638 ✍

E.C. the Executive Club of St James's, London: Brighton & York. 07000 499 8833

EXCEPTIONALLY fortunate active and very balanced gentleman, 40, slim, not unattractive, Public School WLTM a positive, attractive and very slender female who is undeservedly available (dare I say, like me!) and able to rekindle my passion for life and form a really strongpartnership. Plse send photo London/Norfolk Bx 5556 ☎ ✍

FOXEN in N. Leics. Prof male; 6', MA, considered very attractive, 40 (look 30), athletic, travelled, single and stable seeks vixen 30-40. Photo please. Box No 5675 ✍

FREE at last! Having sold the time consuming part my business, I'm now able to commit to forming a permanent & rewarding relationship with a single, N/S slim, attractive lady who has no ties. Please send recent photo. P.S. I'm 51, slim, own hair, well preserved with a wicked sense of humour in need of a recharge by a stimulating fun lady! SouthWest based. Reply to Box No 5610 ✍

FRIENDLY, genuinely handsome man, 35, tall, dark hair, blue-green eyes, slim/fit (usually very modest) affectionate, kind, romantic, always cheerful & very easy going. Likes theatre, films, countryside, being by the sea, cooking & relaxed conversation. Happy with life but seeks attractive, slim lady to share friendship, laughter, and perhaps lasting romance. London/ the South. Please Reply with photo to Box No 5657 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMAN late 50s, graduate, widely travelled, unstuffy but with traditional values WLTM uncomplicated lady with similar background & values. Photo helpful. London/West Country/ anywhere. Reply Box No 5656 ✍

GENTLE, sensitive, North London male (42), *Cambridge graduate*. Hobbies: history, travel, classical music & eating out. WLTM affectionate, educated petite lady. *Photo* appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5645 ✍

GRADUATE, single, 34 yrs. Romantic WLTM single charming lady, 28-36yrs for *friendship/romance*. Interested in travelling, cinema, photography, sports, music eating out. Midlands based. Photo please. Box No 5672 ✍

HI - my name is Ian. I'm a professional guy, *1946* vintage, 5'11", tall, slim, *fair* complexion, and a non smoker. Interests include music, cinema, travel, interior design/renovation character properties, and peaceful country pursuits. I would like to meet an easy going, romantic lady in her 40's to early 50's, who seeks a genuine, loyal partner for lasting happiness. London/Home Counties. Please Reply to Box No 5608 ☎ ✍

HOW much more of your life are you prepared to waste, ready for the Executive Club yet? E.C. *07000 499 8833*

HUNGRY woman with corkscrew, very tall, slim, intelligent, 30's-early 40's needed by battered genius, 46, N/S, professional, tall, dark, sincere, caring, humorous. Must be willing to Prom, picnic, paddle & laugh at *awful* jokes. Please send long letter & photo. Prefer to reply in writing, if possible. London + Surrey/Hants. Box 5530 ✍

INTELLIGENT, *athletic, successful*, outgoing attractive white male, 33, 6' GSOH with lunatic cat, enjoys travel, dining, films, weekends away etc WLTM slim, fit, intelligent female, any nationality for *friendship*/ relationship. Photo/phone number plse. London Box No 5381 ☎ ✍

KENT/Bromley/SE London. *Looking* for that special person? Why make 100 calls when one will do. Call Elite Introductions *0181 658 7576*

MANAGING Director of clothing co, tall, dark, attractive and affluent WLTM a woman no more than 45. Must love sport, travel and and all the good things in life preferably London based. *Photo* please. Reply Box 5682 ✍

MARMALADE or Muesli? Decidedly personable, enthusiastic unpretentious London man, almost eccentric, a good listener, a toe curling voice and smile, wants to find a markedly voluptuous, tallish, warm and witty, no-ties woman for curling surprises, laughs, hugs, saucy kisses: a soulmate in a two home relationship. *N/smoker*, about 45-55. Reply box 4869

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PROFESSIONAL City gentleman, sporty, well educated, fun loving, *seeks* attractive lady, GSOH, N/S, 25-40 for friendship/ relationship - photo included. Reply Box No 5627 ☎ ✍

RATHER lonely but contented *fellow* living in beautiful Devon who has many interests *including the arts & outdoor* is seeking a sincere *friendship* with a pleasant and sweet-tempered middle-aged lady. Please respond to Box No 5639 ✍

RECENT early retiree, highly presentable, sincere, entertaining, sporting, especially golf, varied interests, *living* Glos, Oxon, Wilts border. WLTM lady with similar profile for close relationship, who is free to share and enjoy the pleasures of summer in England and part of the winter in warmer climes. Photo appreciated. *Please* Reply to Box No 5679 ☎ ✍

RICHMOND to Runnymede, Kew to Denham (all TW/UB postcodes) seeking that special person? let us help. Call *Linda* at Elite 0181 580 0028: 7 days

SEXY *intelligent* women seek intellectually stimulating unattached men. E.C. *of course.*

SOUPERMAN fresh nr Wrexham. Interests fresh soup, trees, countryside, strolling, sunshine, laughing and pitted prunes. Own land, 43, 6', thin. English, divorced, 1 daughter, seeks bright, funny, attractive female jeans/jersey/wellies under 35. Nearby Only. Photo and phone number appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5558 ☎ ✍

SUCCESSFUL Company Director Public School, resident Kensington, divorced, mid 60s, extremely fit, wishes to meet attractive female with a view to long term relationship Bx 5546 ✍

SUMMER in the country? Caring, romantic guy in 40s, looks much younger, owns lovely old farmhouse. WLTM attractive woman in 30s. Kids are fine. Photo plse. West Country Box 5678 ☎ ✍

SWISS - Gerhard named, sunny nature, patient, sensitive, lively, energetic, versatile, thrifty but generous, with little responsibilities of the past. Patent agent, professionally involved, Basel based commuting, mid 40's. *Interests:* aesthetic subjects, countryside, history, classical music and the sixties, improvement English. *An ideal* woman appreciates harmony, diligence, spirit, domesticity, reliability, fidelity, share in problems and give pleasure, may complete of learn German, want to be an endeavoured English mentor, is vivacious, optimistic, contemplative, love-starved, with sure feminine and charming weak side, yearning for partnership; all possibilities for the future should be open. Please Reply to Box No 5661

UNCOMPLICATED, easy going, genuine, professional male, late 40's well travelled & cosmopolitan, GSOH, 5'10", pleasant personality/looks. I enjoy most things but am open to new experiences. Seeks genuine caring positive female 35-50 with warm personality & nature to continue my explorations. NorthWest/ Cheshire/ Yorkshire. Box 5574 ☎ ✍

WEALTHY American entrepreneur, aged 38 in mint condition seeks slim, lovely lady age 20-30 to share lavish lifestyle. Do you *enjoy shopping in* Paris, New York & Rome, if so, contact me immediately. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 5588 ✍

WIDOWER 71, academic, semi-retired, bookish, slim, fit, active. Secluded dilapidated hillside cottage and garden. Seeks active, slim, educated lady 55-65 to start new life in lovely countryside. The best may yet to be, but there is much to do en route. No faint hearts please. All addressed letters with photo answered, and photos returned. Box 5597 ✍

HANDSOME, dark haired, rugged successful man, wide interests 54, 5'9", good physique WLTM attractive, active, smart, lively, sensuous woman preferably Northwest, N. Wales, Cheshire based in order to embark on a *joyous*, romantic relationship sharing the pleasure of getting to know one another through dining, wining, travelling, mountain, hill & country walking, cooking, bridge, tennis, any activities, even gardening. Photo please to Box No 5326 ☎ ✍

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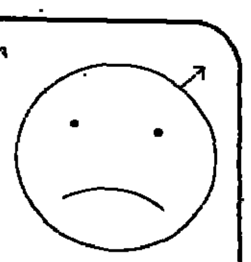

It's Men, or lack of them. Not just any men, but REAL men. Not pretty hunks, but men with intelligence, style, drive, charisma and personality. That's a REAL man. A man capable of stimulating the mind as well as the body. Oh! and definitely NOT MARRIED.

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We're ALWAYS looking for good quality people to take the place of clients who pair up through us. If you are female and relate to this text, where do you go from here? Let's face it, how long have you had to get it right? We're professionals. Give it a try our way for six months – do it, call us, we'll probably transform your life.

If you are male and could meet the qualities of our ladies, we promise we can spoil you for choice.

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We promise we can sit you down to dinner with some of the finest quality people you have ever met; after all we are The Executive Club of St James's. We would welcome your call so we may tell you more about our service.

Call The Executive Club on 0171 499 8833 – 9.30am to 9.30pm *(Weekends and bank holidays??? – get a life!)* *weekdays only thank you.*

E.C. E.C.

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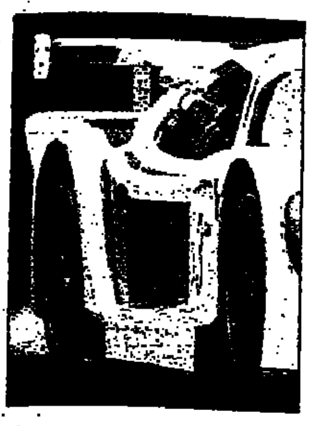


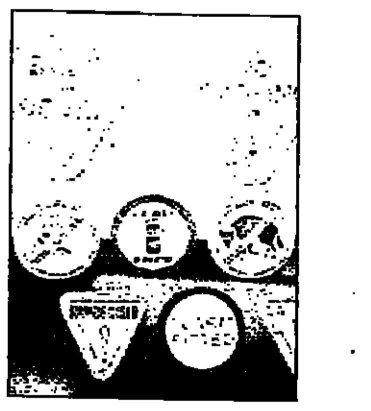
Midsummer night's dream of glory at Le Mans

Page 3

THE TIMES
CAR 97

Rude warning for all sticker suckers

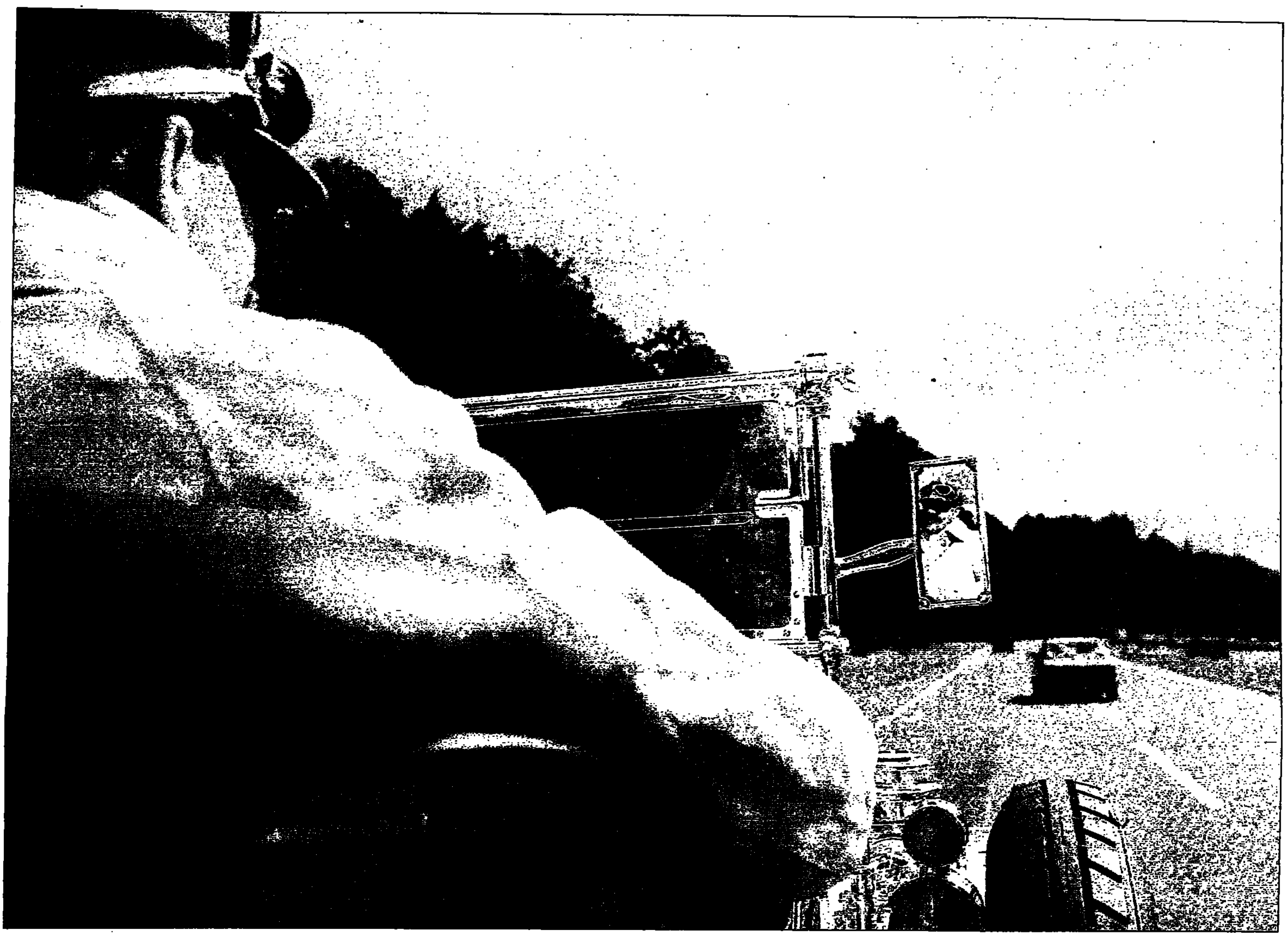
Page 5



SATURDAY JUNE 14 1997

Rolls's marathon Ghost hits 90

Vaughan Freeman rides the legend that made the maker's name for reliability



Spirit of endurance: the Silver Ghost was this week joined by more than 80 Rolls-Royces from all over the world to retrace the route it took on the 750-mile-long Scottish Reliability Trial 90 years ago

For a modern car to drive non-stop for 15,000 miles without developing a single mechanical fault would be, even in these days of computer-controlled engines, air conditioning and anti-lock brakes, a major achievement.

After all, how many of us would confidently fill our cars with sandwiches, toffees and Thermos flasks of coffee, and head off without hope of AA or RAC rescue, for a 2,000-mile jaunt around Scotland followed by 27 non-stop journeys from Glasgow to London?

Then would come the final test: the car stripped down after a drive that equates to two years' non-stop driving for the average motorist, to its last nut and bolt — and find absolutely no significant wear.

That, exactly 90 years ago, is what happened to the Silver Ghost, probably the most famous Rolls-Royce of all, in an effort to prove its manufacturer's reputation as maker of the finest and most reliable vehicles in the world.

This at a time when most roads were little more than gravel tracks, when street lighting was unheard of, garages few and far between, and proper roadside recovery services a far-off dream.

To mark the anniversary of that historic drive, more than 80 Rolls-Royces from all over the world this week joined the original Silver Ghost, registration number AX 201 and worth an estimated £15 million, to retrace its route over the 750 miles of the 1907 Scottish Reliability Trial.

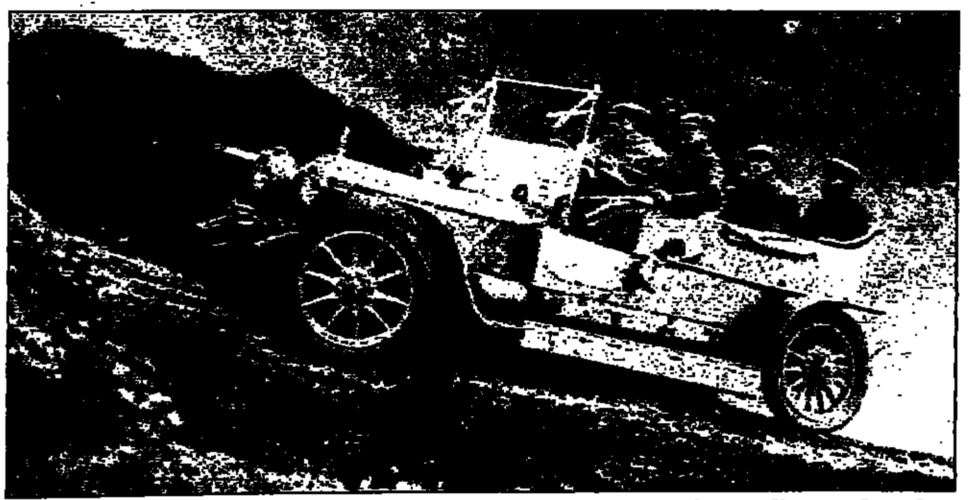
To ride in the Silver Ghost (there is only one, and AX 201 carries a silver plaque to remind the world of the fact) is to sit where almost every King and Queen of Europe, and even Kaiser Bill, has sat.

The sheer brilliance of the car first impresses. It is a silver sheen, and the parts not silver-plated are blindingly chromed. Even the parts under the bonnet dazzle.

On the move, the Silver Ghost wafts along, its engine barely ticking over while cruising between 45 and 50mph. Its spindly wooden wheels (they need watering to stop them clicking) rotate at odd angles to the body, which in turn meanders gently between kerb and white line as the vague steering goes its own way.

From the front seats the view is splendid, across that majestic bonnet with the gigantic headlamps. In the rear, amid green leather upholstery, there is enough space for a five-a-side soccer match, although the lack of roof, windows and heater became freezingly apparent.

Brainchild behind the original motoring marathon was the first managing director of Rolls-Royce, Claude Johnson. So influential was Johnson in encouraging the development of the early Hon. Charles Stuart Rolls/Sir Frederick Henry Royce partnership that he became known as the "hyphen in Rolls-Royce".



The feat was achieved on roads that were mostly little more than unlit gravel tracks

In 1907 the record for non-stop motoring stood at 7,089 miles. With Johnson driving, the Silver Ghost set out to take the record in style, starting with a 2,000-mile trip from Hatfield to Darlington and on to and around Scotland.

On the way, the two-ton Ghost was timed at a smidgeon under 53mph for a flying quarter mile and averaged around 21mpg. In Scotland, the car won a gold medal for excellence in hill climbing, reliability and fuel consumption in the Scottish Reliability Trial, then headed for London, 512 miles away. And then Glasgow, and back to London, and so on.

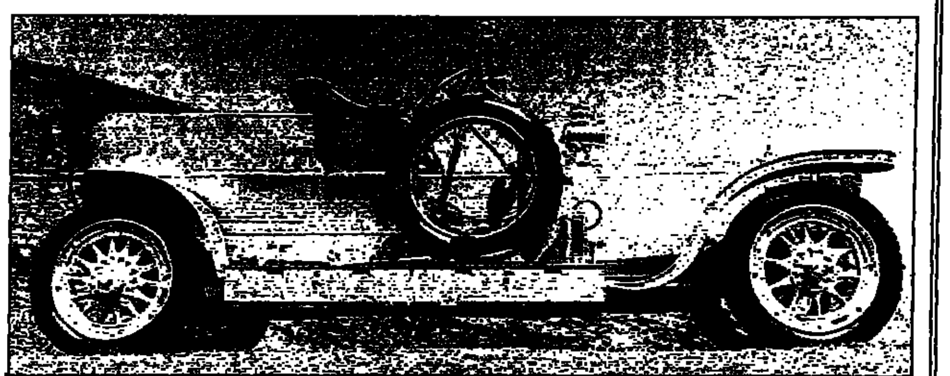
For five weeks, the Silver Ghost covered 410 miles a day, with Johnson at the wheel for the first 4,558 miles, when he handed over to a team of three, including Charles Rolls himself. For the most part, the car ran non-stop day and night without a single involuntary stop except for punctures.

It was then stripped by RAC engineers who concluded that the Silver Ghost showed no measurable wear to the engine, transmission, brakes or steering.

The total repair bill was £28 5s ½d, and the total running costs amounted to £281 8s 4d. The Silver Ghost, Johnson and Rolls-Royce, had easily proved their point.

No louder than a ticking clock

■ CLAUDE JOHNSON, Rolls-Royce's first managing director, drove *The Autocar's* man from London to Bexhill and back in the twelfth of the new 40/50 horse power cars to be completed in 1907, *writes Lord Montagu of Beaulieu.*



The Ghost was sent for silver plating after its amazing performance on the test

The journalist was enchanted: "At whatever speed this car is being driven on its direct third, there is no engine so far as sensation goes, nor are one's auditory nerves troubled driving or, standing by a fuller sound that emanates from an eight-day clock."

The legend was born. Still unfinished, that car had left the Manchester factory only a few days earlier, but its uncanny silence had already earned it the nickname of the Silver Ghost and after that road test it was sent away for its body to be painted with aluminium paint and its metal parts to be silver-plated.

To cover 14,371 miles, including the Scottish Reliability Trial, without a breakdown was not only a record but a near miracle in those days, when even the most experienced motorists were frequently benighted by mechanical failures. When the Royal Automobile Club's engineers dismantled the car after the run, it was found to be "in all respects in perfect running order and in exceptionally good condition ... Had the car been in the hands of a private owner, no replacements would have been considered necessary".

The weekly *Motor* magazine called the trial "the best object lesson on the durability of the modern motor that could possibly be given". The *Automotor Journal*, meanwhile praised "one of the most conclusive — if not the most conclusive — trials of downright merit in touring car construction which the world has ever seen".

The Silver Ghost made Rolls-Royce a byword for excellence, and the Rolls-Royce my father ordered in 1908 — a limited-edition 70hp model, named Dragonfly — so delighted him that to the end of his days his main car was a Rolls-Royce. But how I wish he had kept Dragonfly, as no 70hp models survived.

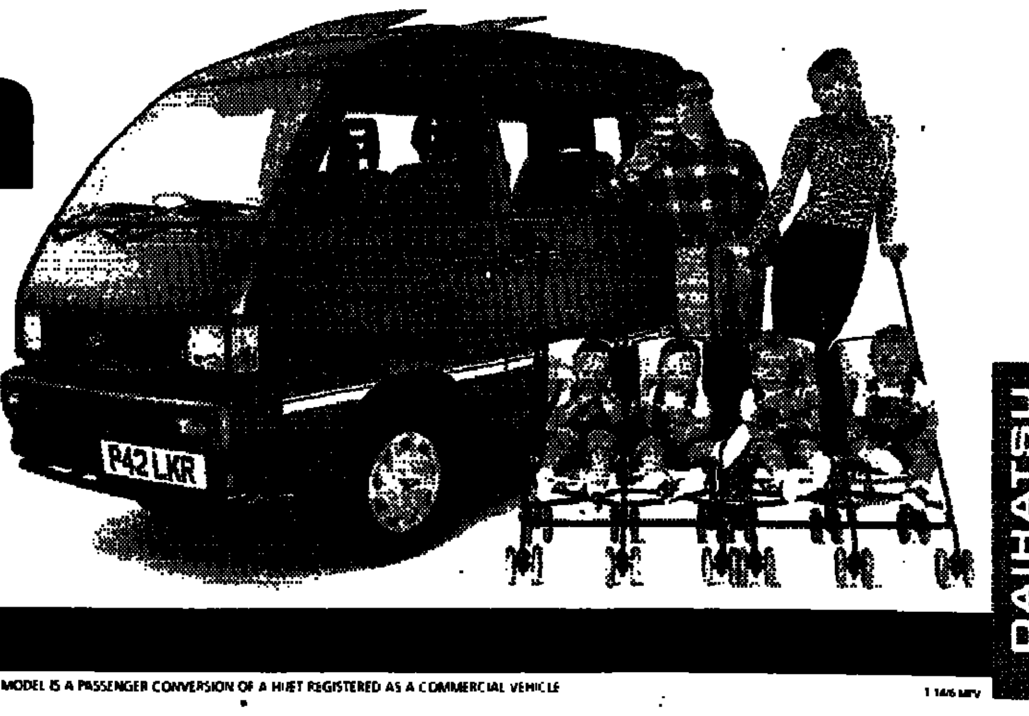
After passion wagon.

It's the usual story. Boy meets girl. Girl meets boy. Boy and girl, ahem... suddenly need a bigger car. Enter the remarkable Daihatsu Hijet MPV: the perfect runabout for mum, dad and even four kids. It has two sunroofs, five doors (two sliding), plenty of room for shopping, a frugal 1 litre engine, a five-speed gearbox and even a three year or 60,000 mileage warranty. All for only £9,000 on the road. And if that's not enough to tempt you, just think about the four back seats. For more information call 0800 521 700. THE SIX SEAT HIJET MPV.

NO-NONSENSE VEHICLES.

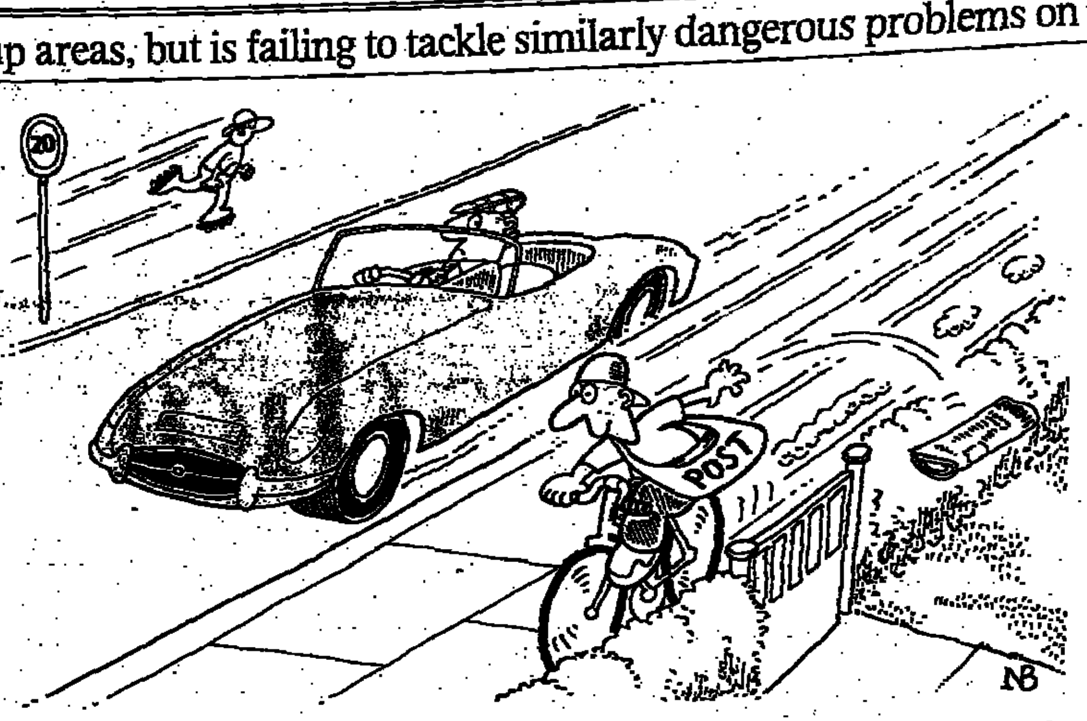
DAIHATSU

PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS INCLUDES VAT. DELIVERY, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS' ROAD FUND LICENCE. EACH VEHICLE OF THIS MODEL IS A PASSENGER CONVERSION OF A HIJET REGISTERED AS A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE



The Government looks set to introduce 20mph limits in built-up areas, but is failing to tackle similarly dangerous problems on dual carriageways

New road policy isn't up to speed



Peter Barnard

The announcement by Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, that he is reviewing speed limits has been taken in some quarters to mean that there may be a *quid pro quo* in the shape of increased motorway limits. This is not so: we shall not shortly be whizzing along motorways at *autobahn* speeds. Indeed, Mr Strang's move will cover traffic management as well as pure speed.

There is a near certainty, however, that the main outcome will be a 20mph limit in built-up areas. Many places already have such a limit, for local authorities can apply to the Government on an individual basis.

So a wider 20mph limit will be accepted without much dissent, because the Government will focus the need for speed reduction on stopping children being knocked down while playing in the street.

This will be yet another example of the motorist having to pay for the ills of society. The blunt truth is that children should not be allowed to play in busy residential streets but it happens for several reasons, including irresponsible parents and hopeless planning.

Many of the street accidents involving children are caused not by speed *per se* but by on-street parking, which restricts the vision of both driver and child. Yet we still build housing estates and council blocks without safe play areas and with inadequate off-street parking. Putting right those wrongs would cost billions of pounds, whereas lowering the speed limit is cheap.

There is a better case for installing speed cameras in urban zones and retaining the 30mph limit, but that would also be an expensive process. And there is no guarantee that the lower limit will have any effect on maniacs who drive at crazy speeds.

The Department of Transport says that because speed limits on their own are ignored by many people, the emphasis will have to be on traffic management. So we are likely to see a combination of lower limits and engineering measures, including humps and chicanes. I hate these things, but their spread is inevitable.

Opponents of lower limits will find no comfort in the statistics. An increase of one mile an hour in the average speed of traffic raises the death toll by 7 per cent and increases the number of accidents by 5 per cent. Drivers may well feel frustrated by speed limits, but they have the desired effect.

Having read this far, you may think I have suddenly become a champion of Government transport policy. This would never do. Let me look for something Mr Strang ought to be doing, but probably won't. Ah yes, dual carriageway speed limits.

You may remember the Batheaston by-pass: nearly everyone in the little village of Batheaston, near Bath, wanted the road, but Swampy and his mates did not. But it was built, is now open ... with a 50mph limit. This is very odd and it is by no means peculiar to Batheaston. I have driven on four dual carriageways with 50mph limits just in the course of researching this column.

The national speed limit for dual carriageways is 70mph, the same as motorways. I happen to think that is ridiculous, but I also think that nothing frustrates drivers more than a limit that has no logic.

Take Batheaston: we are reduced to 50mph on the dual carriageway, but as soon as the dual carriageway turns into the single carriageway A46, the limit ends. So, on a more dangerous road, the limit increases to 60mph.

That is plainly absurd, and to overcome the absurdity I will offer Mr Strang a deal that I think most motorists would support. He should reduce the national dual carriageway limit to 60mph. In exchange, there would be no 50mph dual carriageways except where the road has frequent roundabouts or traffic lights.

This plan will enable Mr Strang to make two clear safety moves: reduce a limit to cut accidents and increase a limit to cut frustration, a factor which leads to accidents. Over to you, Minister.

NEWS IN BRIEF

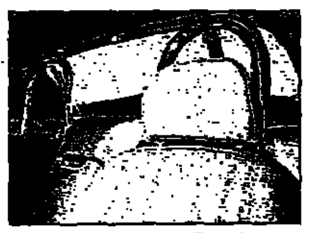
Chrysler's new Neon flasher

■ JUST 21 days were needed to sell out the British allocation of Chrysler Neon cars last year. Customers wanting to take advantage of the high-specification American mid-range model should start placing orders with the company's 98 dealers now as Chrysler adds still more equipment to the car. The new 2.0SLX gets alloy wheels, front fog lamps, anti-lock brakes, air-conditioning and automatic transmission for £14,250.

US import sells quickly

MAUREEN Harris of Lincolnshire; Marilyn Stemler, of Surrey, and Pat Hope of Sussex, won our ride with rallying's fastest women at next weekend's Goodwood Festival.

MG safety on a roll



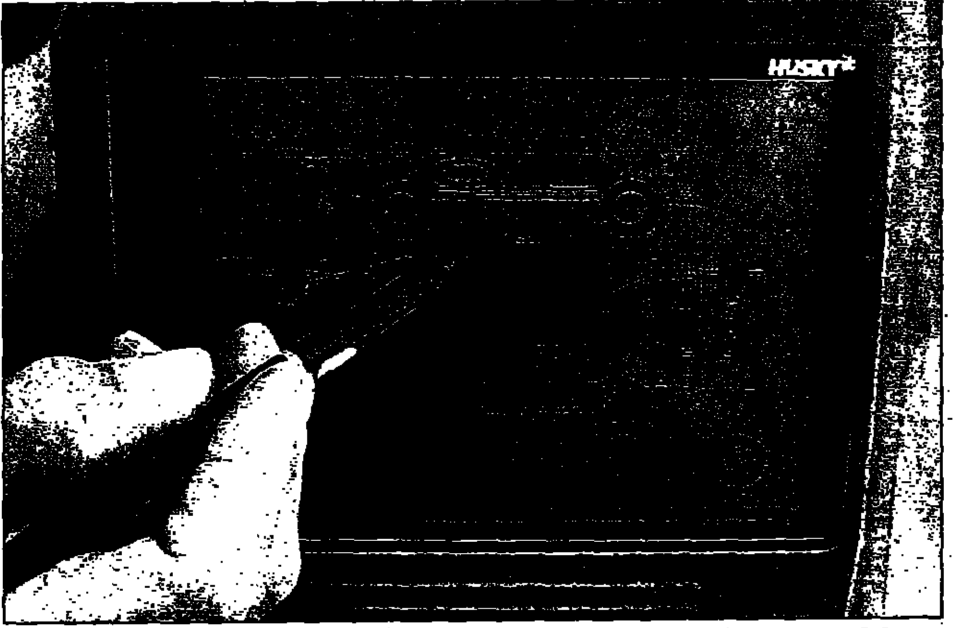
Choice of two finishes

■ TWIN roll hoops can give Rover's classy MGF the extra safety of a race car. From Safety Devices of Cambridge (telephone 01353 724 202), the hoops come in both polyester finish (£250) or chrome (340). The hoops are manufactured from the same tubular steel used in racing.

Sales coup for coupé

Orders await new CLK

■ MORE THAN 1,600 orders have been logged for the new Mercedes CLK coupé on sale next week. Mercedes expects to sell around 3,000 a year, at £26,640 for the 200 Sport and Elegance, £30,840 for the 230 Kompressor Sport and Elegance and £36,640 for the 320 Sport and Elegance.



It takes around seven minutes to mark all details, including interior decor and dents

Mike Pepper logs in each car's registration numbers, which are checked for legitimacy before the facts go to the auctioneer's screen

Paper's going, going, gone

Tony Dawe on an auctioneer's high-tech bid

Car auctions, one of the few spheres of the motor industry to remain in a time-warp for decades, are moving towards the 21st century as computers begin to replace the mounds of paperwork that have overwhelmed the auctioneer's desk and the offices behind him.

In a revolution which would baffle Arthur Daley, National Car Auctions is relying on new technology to sell cars at the best prices.

From the moment a vehicle arrives at the company's gates to the time it is delivered to its new owner, computers take charge. At the beginning of the line, staff with hand-held Husky computers record every imaginable detail of the car arriving for sale, while the auctioneer has learned to master a touch-sensitive screen as skilfully as his gavel.

The result is a massive saving of time, money and paper, plus the ability to track details of a car throughout the operation and thwart scams such as the "ringing" and "clocking" of second-hand cars.

"This has been a paper-driven business for too long," says Ron Leader, chief executive of National Car Auctions. "Every sale can generate 30 pieces of paper, from collection notes, through engineer's reports and fraud checks to confirmation of sale.

"There is tremendous scope for things to go wrong, for a vital document to go missing. Getting all the pieces of paper together in the same place at the end of the day could prove a nightmare, so I started to look at ways of getting rid of paper from the business."

Leader sought the help of the Ford Motor Company, a major client, to help achieve his aim. "I asked the company how we could take information from them electronically, deal with it here electronically, auction the cars electronically and send the details back to them electronically."

With Ford's co-operation and software from AT&T, National Car Auctions can now sell vehicles used by the motor company's staff with minimal documentation. "The only paper we produce is a report to Ford, which the company's auditors need, and a hard copy invoice for the purchaser," says Leader.

The paperless exercise begins when the Ford cars arrive at NCA's headquarters at Frating, near Colchester, Essex. Armed with their hand-held computers, which were developed by the Army for use in rugged conditions, Mike Pepper, the entry supervisor, and his team log in the registration numbers using a computer pen and then scroll down the screen to find the model and colour of the car in front of them.

"It takes an average of seven minutes to mark every detail of the car, including interior decor and dents, on the computer," says Pepper. The information is then downloaded via telephone line from the shed that serves as his base.

In the company's offices, the computer file on each car is amended as details about MoT certificates and security checks are received. Auction catalogues are generated by computer. When the car finally enters the auction room, Glen Moore, the senior auctioneer, refers to his screen instead of a sheaf of papers.

Clearly displayed in front of him are the car's lot number, its registration plate, mileage, age and model, and, most importantly, its reserve price. A couple of lines will outline its history and MoT details. In seconds the sale will be over and Moore can hit one of the buttons which read "sold", "not sold" and "provisional sale" on his screen.

His assistant will enter details of the buyer on the screen, and the information is relayed back to the office for the sale to be completed and a pass produced for the car to be delivered. The automated bar-coded passes ensure that security staff will know the car is cleared to leave the site.

"In the auction ring, the professional buyers bid in the traditonal way with the minimum of effort," says Leader. "The great advantage of the technology is that they can speak to the auctioneer's assistant and get details of previous or forthcoming lots in seconds without having to go in to the office and ask someone to dig out the paperwork."

With the regular Ford sales now established as paperless auctions, Leader plans to introduce the new technology at sales of fleet cars and then at trade sales.

"When we first tried to persuade other clients to follow Ford's example, few were interested," he says. "But in the past few months, as more and more businesses become paperless, there has been a complete turnaround and I am hoping that paper in our business will be a thing of the past within a year.

"We would also like to link up with the buyers as well. If one was looking for a specific model that was not in the catalogue we could notify our clients electronically, and if the right car was out there it could be in the sale within hours."

GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**

A1209 Bethnal Green Road. Long-term roadworks between Vallence Road and Cambridge Heath Road.

A11 Leytonstone. Major roadworks with lane closures at A12 roundabout.

A4 Pall Mall. Roadworks on westbound carriageway at King Street and Waterloo Place.

A302 Westminster. Roadworks on Bridge Street by Parliament Square.

A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic for structural works.

A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular) over Lea Valley viaduct.

A4 South Kensington. Major roadworks on Cromwell Road. Regular delays from Earls Court or beyond.

B317 West Kensington. North End Road closed northbound from A4 to A315, with one-way traffic southbound. Edith Road to Hammersmith Road.

● **SOUTH-EAST**

M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).

A127 Southend. Roadworks on Victoria Avenue at junction with Caernarvon Road.

M20 junction 4, West Malling, Kent. Long-term works for erection of traffic signals on the slip roads and roundabout. Various lane closures.

M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use A40 and A418.

M25 junctions 8-10, Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

● **SOUTH-WEST**

B4051 Bristol. Ashley Road, Saint Pauls. Temporary lights at junction with Sussex Place.

M5 junctions 18-19, Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge with 50mph limit.

A40 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights for roadworks on Old Bath Road.

A3088 near Yeovil. Cartgate Link Road closed. Diversions.

● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**

A1 Alconbury, Cambridgeshire. Construction work with contraflow and lane closures.

A1 Peterborough. Works at the Haddon interchange with repairs to the A1M.

A6 Lockington, Leicestershire. Long-term roadworks between M1 junction 24 and Sawley Island.

A1074 Norwich. Narrow lanes eastbound on Dereham Road.

A500 Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. Contraflow on The Queensway (D road), with only one lane open each way between Talke and Porthill.

A50 Stoke on Trent. Major construction work at Meir.

A41 Northampton. Temporary lights on Bilston Road, near Cooper Street.

● **NORTH**

A689 between A19 and A1185, north of Middlesbrough at Wolviston, reduced to one lane.

M62 East Riding. Carriageway reduced to one lane both ways between Howden and North Cave with 50mph limit.

Blackley, Greater Manchester: Major roadworks at junction of Rochdale Road, Victoria Avenue and Manchester New Road.

A663 Chadderton. Contraflow on Broadway near Foxdenton Lane.

A567 Bootle. Stanley Road closed northbound between Merton Road and The Strand.

A19 North Yorkshire. Major roadworks with two lanes each way between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham. Only one lane on some slip roads. 50mph limit.

M1 West Yorkshire. Major roadworks continue around Leeds junction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

A1058 Tyne and Wear. Cradlewell Bypass down to one lane each way. Diversions.

● **SCOTLAND**

M8/M898 Renfrewshire. Erskine Spur exit slip closed, as is the exit slip from M898 to M8 westbound.

A726 East Renfrewshire. Works and temporary lights on Clarkston Toll. Delays on all approaches.

● **WALES**

A48 Carmarthen. Lane closures at Pensarn roundabout, also on the A484, for roadworks.

A449 Monmouthshire. Roadworks between Usk Junction and M4 junction 24 Newport. Expect long delays at times.

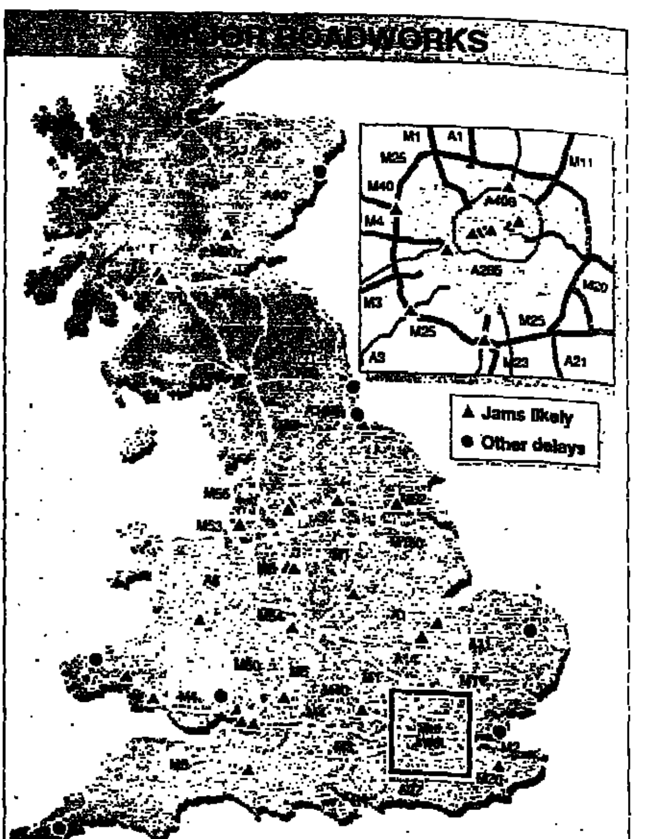
A483 Fabian Way. Swansea. Lane closures both ways near the docks entrance on main dual carriageway into Swansea from M4.

A472 Pontypool, Torfaen. Contraflow between Pontymoile and Heron roundabout. Lengthy delays, especially from the A4042 direction.

A487 Dinas. Water main repairs.

A470 Llandinam. Temporary lights installed for roadworks.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



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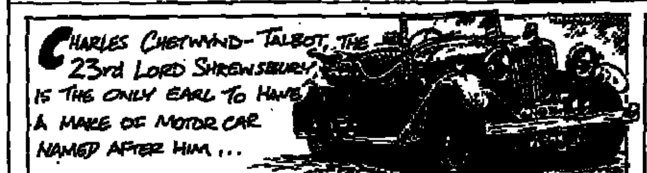
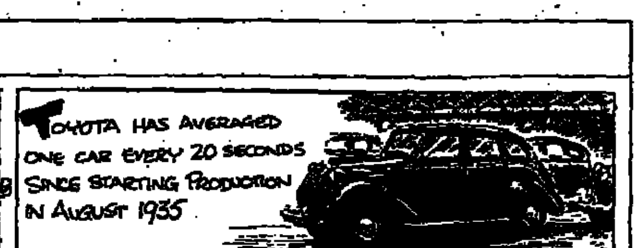
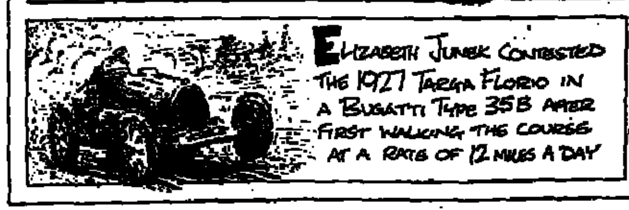
AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long


CHARLES CHETWYND-TALBOT, THE 23rd LORD SHREWSBURY, IS THE ONLY EARL TO HAVE A MAKE OF MOTOR CAR NAMED AFTER HIM ...


TOYOTA HAS AVERAGED ONE CAR EVERY 20 SECONDS SINCE STARTING PRODUCTION IN AUGUST 1935


ELIZABETH JUNEK CONTESTED THE 1927 TARGA FLORIO IN A BUGATTI TYPE 35B AFTER FIRST WALKING THE COURSE AT A RATE OF 12 MILES A DAY

HERTZ RENT A CAR
JOHN HERTZ FOUNDED THE YELLOW CAB COMPANY (AND HIS GIANT CAR RENTAL BUSINESS) AS A WAY OF UTILISING SECONDHAND TRADE-INS.

[illegible]

Kevin Eason previews Britain's beloved race — the Le Mans 24 hours

Can Panoz score a sneaky gotcha?

While Noel Edmonds' team hopes for a surprise win, other Brits have a strong chance

More British than a *British Airways* logo, more romantic than dinner with Mel Gibson, more exciting than the Cresta Run: Le Mans is the most evocative name in world motor racing.

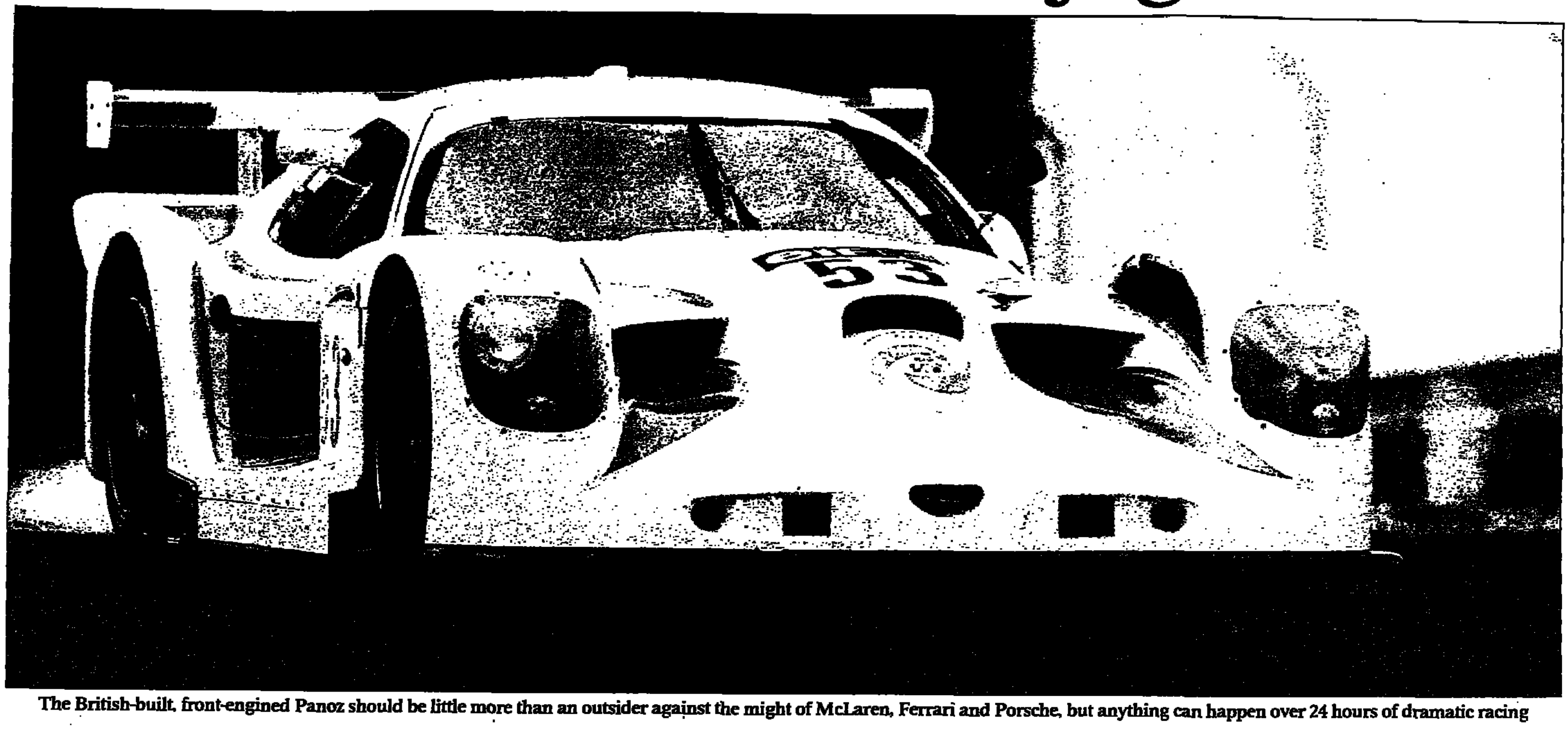
The 24-hour endurance race starts this afternoon with one of the most competitive grids for years, and 70,000 Brits will be there to watch — the biggest crowd of enthusiasts outside of the Silverstone grand prix.

The curious hold of the event over the British is a theme that runs through Le Mans like Blackpool through a stick of rock. It is not just that British-made cars dominate the grid or that British drivers have been immensely successful at Le Mans, but somehow the cross-channel bond has survived every up and down in the Franco/British relationship.

W. O. Bentley is revered by the little town's inhabitants, who constantly refer to the marque's series of four victories in the earliest days of the event. Maybe that is where the bond was formed, for the Bentley boys in their roaring open-top monsters created a legend: dashing, aristocratic, courageous and devil-may-care.

Whatever it was, Le Mans holds a place in the affection of British race fans like no other — which is what attracted Noel Edmonds, who will be in the pits following the fortunes of his Panoz team this weekend.

Panoz exemplifies the romance of the race: a supercar built by the entrepeneurial Irish-American, Don Panoz, engineered by Reynard in Oxfordshire, raced by the seasoned British team, David Price Racing, and backed by Unique Sport, the company owned by entrepeunerial television star Edmonds. The front-engined Panoz should be little more than an outsider against the might of McLaren, Ferrari or Porsche, so a victory first time out in this gruelling marathon should be out of the question.



The British-built, front-engined Panoz should be little more than an outsider against the might of McLaren, Ferrari and Porsche, but anything can happen over 24 hours of dramatic racing

But anything can happen over 24 hours, when reliability is sometimes tested to destruction and drivers lose concentration in the dark hours of a long night with devastating results.

Edmonds is optimistic: "The works teams obviously are geared up for an event like this but we have a great car, great drivers and anything can happen over such a long period of racing."

The best chance of a victory on a first Le Mans appearance should fall though to Martin Brundle. The grand prix television commentator and ex-Formula One racer will be lead driver for the astonishing TWR Nissan, which set the fastest time in pre-qualifying.

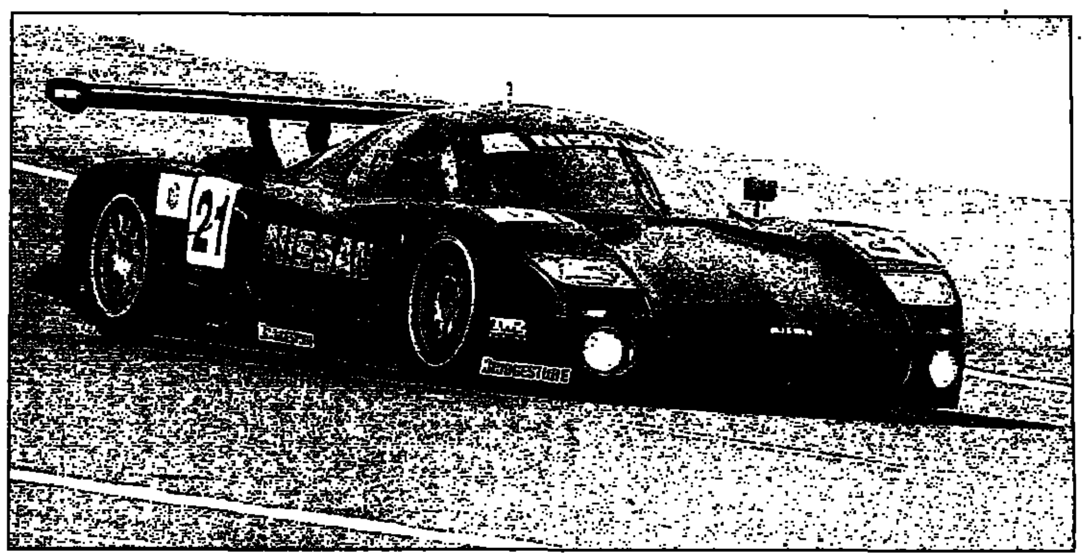
Panoz-backer Noel Edmonds

The car is not only beautiful, its chassis is prepared by TWR, the Oxfordshire team that prepares Damon Hill's Arrows F1 car and which won Le Mans twice for Jaguar. It also made the chassis for last year's Joest Porsche.

The twin-turbocharged V8 looks to be reliable as well as quick, while the team not only boasts Brundle but also the experience of Ricardo Patrese, former long-time F1 star.

But Brundle will have to pedal furiously to get past the McLarens, which this year come freshened for the new battle with longer, aerodynamic tails. They still look the pick of the field, as the huge BMW V12-powered McLarens are both powerful and reliable — and they won two years ago.

Armchair enthusiasts can follow their fortunes on television with the race live on the Eurosport satellite channel. The race also features in two television specials planned by Noel Edmonds following the fate of the Panoz team. Check *The Directory* television section in *The Times* for details.



TWR Nissan, driven by ex-Formula One racer Martin Brundle, was fastest in pre-qualifying

Sound, fury and twitchy steering: D-Types offer no passenger comfort or wind-protection, but so what?

Driving the D-type legend

Vaughan Freeman on Jaguar's beautiful 1950s hat-trick winner

It is 40 years since one of the most famous and evocative cars to have graced Le Mans took the last of its three-in-a-row victories.

The car was the D-Type Jaguar, which had won Le Mans in 1955 and 1956. In 1957 though, the hat-trick was recorded in crushing style as D-Types routed the opposition to take first, second, third, fourth and sixth places on the twisting track.

Only a handful of the cars that raced at Le Mans still survive. Many, having finished their races were returned to Jaguar's Coventry works and scrapped. Others that did survive to race in historic car events have since been destroyed.

So to sit in £1 million worth of 1950s Le Mans Jaguar D-Type in the pit lane at the Goodwood racetrack is astonishing. I was at Goodwood with the 96 Club, a collection of like-minded enthusiasts-cum lunatics.

This is a return to an age when racing drivers in baggy boiler suits sprinted across the Le Mans track to leap into their cars and roar off to glory. It is also horrifically uncomfortable.

I was passenger in the ex-works 1955 car, painted, of course, in British racing green. This long-nose D-Type actually ran at Le Mans, driven by champions Duncan Hamilton and Le Mans winner Ivor Bueb.

The D-Type's token passenger seat was cunningly designed so that an L-shaped aluminium bar bit into my backside. With knees forced up to the chest by a minimal footwell, my legs weaved in and out of wiring looms and various other bits and pieces. I couldn't leave my feet down there too long anyway — the floor gets so hot that shoes have been known to melt.

Even the minimalist perspex screen makes no effort to protect the passenger. Once speeds got into three figures, a hurricane roared into my visor and lifted the helmet so that the strap threatened to garrotte me. All this was forgotten as I hurtled around Goodwood.

At the wheel was Chris Keith-Lucas, of Sussex Jaguar specialists Lynx Motors, who lives and breathes D-Types. As we built up speed the car squirmed, slipped and slid as if alive. The truck-sized steering wheel twitched, and over the helmet intercom I could hear less than reassuring "whoahs" from my pilot.

Chris waxes lyrical: "The original D-types are slightly twitchy and have a sharp performance, but they are endless fun to drive. The cars have a lovely note to them."

They are also, without a doubt, one of the most beautiful cars ever built. Modern Le Mans races are won by brutal-looking machines. Beauty had sway when Jaguar and its D-Types ruled Le Mans in the late 1950s, and rivals included such exotic names as Ferrari, Aston Martin and Maserati.

The D-Type made its Le Mans debut in 1954, and the long tail fins, introduced to improve straight-line stability, made the cars instantly recognisable. The first D-Type victory came with Mike Hawthorn and Ivor Bueb averaging over 107mph for the 24 hours.

Two years later, the winning D-Type, driven by Flockhart and Bueb, averaged 114mph, faster than the average speed of 108mph set more than 20 years later by the turbo-charged Porsche that took first place.

During the 1966 race, two of the works Jaguar team D-Types crashed early in treacherous conditions and Hawthorn's car developed problems. The race was won by the Ecurie Ecosse D-Type of Ron Flockhart and Ninian Sanderson.

Shortly after the 1956 Le Mans race, Jaguar pulled out of motor racing, and its cars were transferred to the Ecurie Ecosse team. In 1957 an ex-works Ecurie Ecosse D-Type driven by Flockhart and Bueb won the race, and D-Types took all top six places bar the fifth slot which went to Ferrari.

The D-Type had staked its place in history, and together with the 1951 Jaguar XK120 victory and the 1953 C-Type Jaguar win, rooted the Jaguar name to its motorsport heritage, a tradition that lived again three decades later with the Jaguar XJR victories of 1988 and 1990.

Not just historic — these machines cost a million each

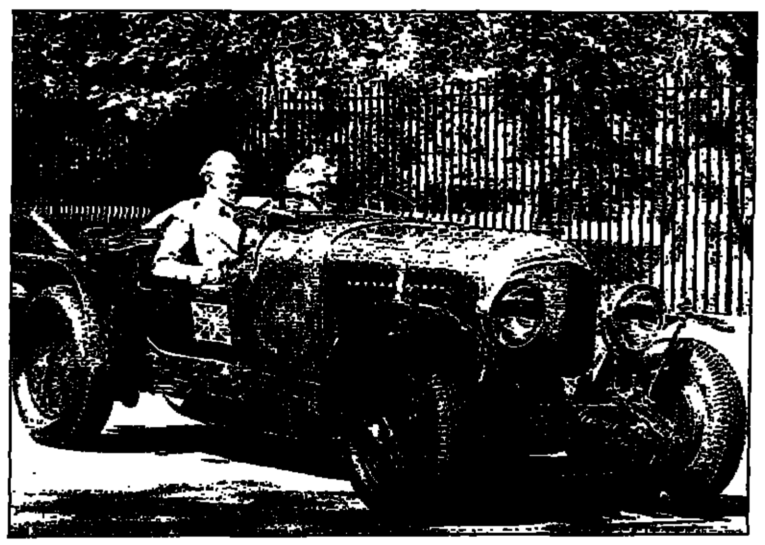
British fans' birthday celebration

This year marks Bentley's famous win

ODD THAT after 70 years, the legend is as strong as ever, *writes Kevin Eason*. The Le Mans crowds never applaud louder than when a motorcade of Bentleys serenely tours the circuit. Spectators can even congregate at W. O. Bentley square in the town.

Yet Bentleys have not won at Le Mans since 1930, though admittedly the famous British marque did notch up a string of four wins in a row. The first, in 1927, was the most famous though, as the redoubtable Dudley Benjafield and co-driver Sammy Davis nursed their car to the chequered flag after having been involved in a devastating accident.

To celebrate the anniversary, Prince Michael of Kent is joining members of the Benjafield Racing Club to drive a 4½-litre Bentley to the race today where he will be welcomed by loyal enthusiasts.



Prince Michael of Kent and Stanley Mann drive a 4½-litre Bentley

Walter Harris on the millionaire driver who built his own machines

America's solo endurance hero

Drivers will climb out of their boiling cockpits every two hours to get through this weekend's race at Le Mans. Briggs Cunningham drove the entire race on *his* own... and with the distinction of doing so in his own car.

Born into one of the richest families in America in 1907, Briggs Swift Cunningham became captivated by cars early in life, and encountered few obstacles in realising his automobile ambitions.

Cunningham's cousins, the Colliers, owned a Madison Avenue advertising agency, and like Cunningham, became involved with motor racing. Influenced by the English *Autocar* magazine and the construction of Brooklands, they decided to build a similar track at their estate at Sleepy Hollow, on the Hudson near West Point. They also founded the Auto Racing Club of America.

The Colliers and their cousin raced against each other; Mike Collier had gone in for international motor racing before the war, but Cunningham wanted to do more than simply race cars designed and built by other people. He wanted to construct and race his own.

Le Mans was the focal point of the Cunningham's entry in racing. The Cunningham équipe, in its blue and white racing livery, first appeared at Le Mans in 1950.

Briggs Cunningham, left, at the 1952 Le Mans race

In those days, if a driver had the stamina and the endurance, there was nothing to stop him from staying at the wheel for the whole 24 hours, which Cunningham did, except for a couple of laps, when he handed the wheel to his co-driver. But suspecting that his habit of tripping over restaurant tables might have more to do with his eyesight than mere clumsiness, Cunningham resumed driving himself, managing to keep awake and put his eponymously named car firmly on the racing map.

America, which had never been particularly interested in races other than the Indy and lesser national events, began to realise that the Cunningham car and its creator were something to be proud of. In spite of his privileged background and riches, Cunningham earned lasting affection and respect in his own country and abroad.

After 1964, the last year in which Cunningham cars raced at Le Mans, Cunningham entered teams of Jaguars, Porsche 904s and Maseratis.

Over the years Briggs built up a vast collection of cars, incorporating at least one example of every marque ever built. This was housed in hangars at Sleepy Hollow, and in 1951 was augmented by the purchase at the Paris Motor Show of a Bugatti Royale — only six were ever built. Weighing more than three tons and with a 148mph top speed, the Royale needed a driver of Cunningham's calibre to handle it.

Sold at auction at the Royal Albert Hall for £5½ million, the Royale is now in South Korea, the property of the head of Samsung Electronics.

Cunningham's collection became a museum, open to the public and transferred from Sleepy Hollow to the Collier's Florida estate and on to Naples. It is a tribute, rather than a memorial, to a man who made his marque.

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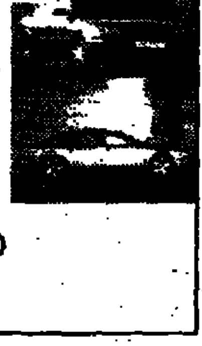

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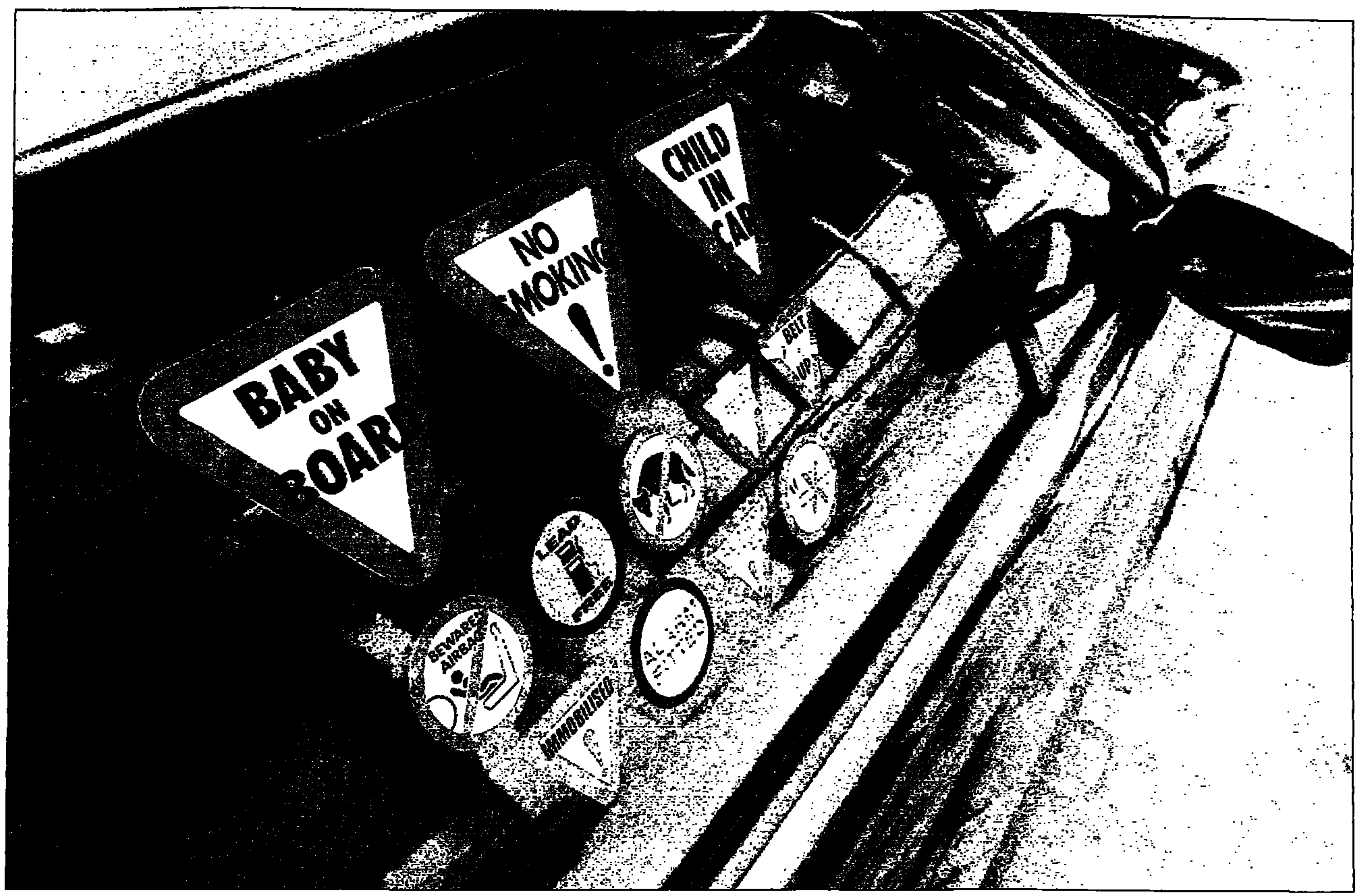
My other joke is amusing: Britain's love of car stickers and other drollery lives on, says **Simon Hacker**

'Furry dice are still our favourite eyesores'



It's a stick-up: obscuring the driver's vision by covering windows with jokes and declarations can land you a £20 fine under the Road Vehicles Construction and Use Act

A generation on from the Wayne-and-Tracy sunvisor strip attached to a Vauxhall Viva, we're still desperately seeking stickers. The modern motor has evolved into a technological wonder, but drivers remain as passionate as ever about turning their cars into moving citadels of limp humour.

Halfords, Britain's largest supplier of plastic rhetoric, says there is still a strong demand for the kind of wit that spawned such unforgettables as: "If you can read this, you're driving too close", or "Recycled Ferrari". But it believes the market has matured. The most popular buys in 1997 show health, patriotism and security top the agenda.

"The best-selling sticker today is actually for other occupants — 'No Smoking' — followed by the Union Jack and 'Alarm Fitted'," a spokeswoman says. Cute parrot shapes and fluffy feline outlines are, however, still "immensely popular" and the classic furry dice are still hanging in there as the most popular in-car eyesores.

Behavioural analysts interpret car stickers as a friendly gesture from one fellow driver to another. "We can't communicate as we might before cars were invented," says psychologist Rob Woods. "So we use stickers foremost as a way of simply saying hello. If you want to establish membership of a certain subculture, a sticker becomes a badge of belonging."

TOP SELLERS

1. No Smoking
2. Union (Jack) flag
3. Warning: Alarm Fitted
4. Keep Your Distance
5. Baby on Board
6. Child in Car
7. EU flag
8. Belt up
9. Flag of St Andrew
10. National flag of Wales

Surfers might go for "Hot Tuna" or "Fat Willy's Surf Shack" as a badge for an unconventional lifestyle, he says, while others prefer to proclaim social responsibility by indicating that they slow down for horses.

While commuters spend more time fuming in traffic and reports of road rage increase, the RAC believes a badly-timed sticker might help to raise the temperature on summer roads.

"If it's words to the effect of 'Up yours, pal' and you've just cut someone up, it would probably induce a reaction," says safety expert Kevin Delaney.

Any sticker-spotter worth his salt will tell you that the craze began with the Lions of Longleat, back in 1966. The UK's first safari park hit upon the idea of issuing "We've seen the Lions of Longleat" stickers as car passes.

Tourist traps from Madame Tussauds to Legoland have followed suit and the trend has gone global. As you read this, Toyota drivers are cruising round Tokyo, telling all and sundry that their occupants have been to Alton Towers.

Scour the acres of kitsch, however, and there is the odd glimmer of post-modern intellect to be appreciated: "When God created men, she was only joking," is, apparently fairly drole to some women. Equally, "My other car's a Porsche" might be faintly amusing when stuck ironically on to a 911.

But if you're overwhelmed with the desire to reach out and communicate with the hapless fellow who finds himself behind you, be sure to be economical: sticker collecting can prove illegal. The law on rear visibility is covered by the Road Vehicles Construction and Use Act (1986), which can lead to prosecution for "failure to maintain glass or windscreen so as not to obscure the visions of the driver". Driving with too many stickers, comes under the Act and is covered by a non-endorsable £20 fine.

Nasty signs may cause rage

HAS YOUR CAR BECOME A MOBILE BILLBOARD?

■ THE MESSAGE on the sticky-backed plastic would often be enough to make a *Blue Peter* presenter blush — and they don't have to be confined to the rear windscreen. The message is is usually blunt, and quickly delivered to its target audience.

Which is why advertisers have been quick to realise that the motorist and his or her sticker could be useful in delivering messages about their products.

"The best way to promote a message," says Sven Olsen of advertising gurus, Banks Hoggins O'Shea, "is to get it on to the streets — and there's no better way to get to a captive audience sitting in a traffic jam than on the rear window of the car in front."

Garages, never backward in coming forward, usually take the opportunity to make the motorist their advertising vehicle without even bothering to ask permission or offer the recompense of a small fee.

Jim McKechnie, sales manager at Dutton Forshaw in Aylesbury, Oxfordshire, says Nissans begin their driving lives bedecked with a 12in by 3in dealership sticker, but many return for their first service without them.

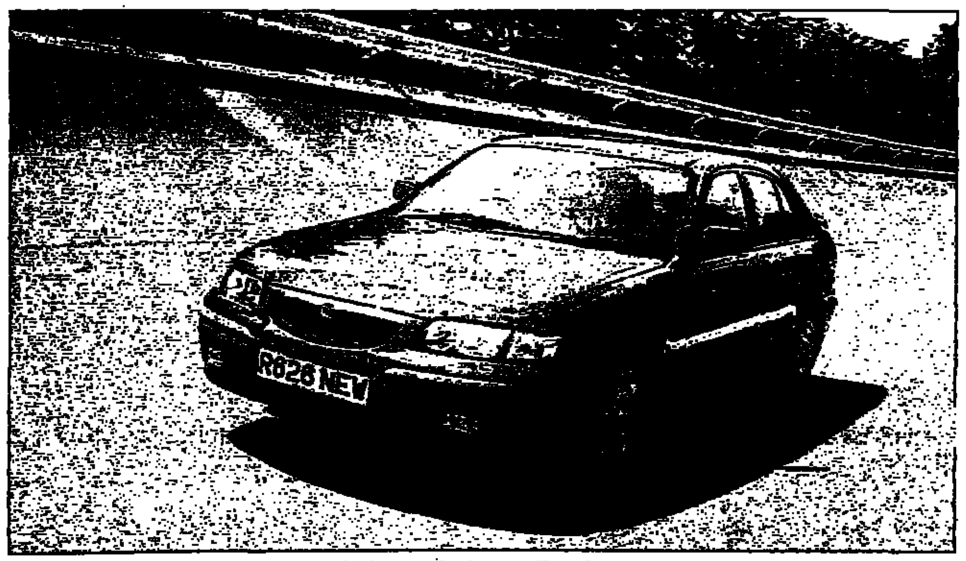
"A lot of customers strip them straight out, but we have to put up with some pretty awful replacements. Many of our team are traumatised by bad-taste stickers, but dead, sun-bleached Garfields are definitely the worst."

The inner-space craft

ROAD TEST

Ian Morton

on Mazda's subtle new 626



Externally the European-styled Mazda is smaller, but interior space has increased

The Japanese have a word for it: *kaizen*, which means continuous improvement. It matters not if a new car gives a first impression of being blandly updated interpretation of the model it replaces, as long as it incorporates *kaizen*.

Although the new Mazda 626 — launched today in Britain, the company's fastest growing market — re-uses the existing floorpan, chassis and engines and does not exactly take a giant stride into a new era of design, it abounds in logical progress.

Much of it has emerged from Mazda's new styling centre in Germany set up to assimilate European virtues, tastes and needs.

To the informed eye, there are sundry visual differences, including the smile-shaped grille which Mazda is adopting as its family look, but the central impression is of a chunkier overall presence for, despite having the same wheelbase as the old model at 15ft, the new car is unusually and significantly five inches shorter.

A classic space-management exercise has taken place. All the interior dimensions are increased and there is a bigger and better-shaped boot too. Usable space is emphasised by greater simplicity of interior styling.

The control area is frankly plain — a positive step away from the sort of complex, glossy presentations that drivers of executive and larger family cars have become familiar with. Some sort of purification process? Whatever, it is easier to get used to.

Yet the specification is richer in practical ways. Even the basic five-door 1.8 at £13,960 includes "intelligent" air-conditioning (a set-and-forget system which accounts for the IAC badge on all new models), electric windows all round, electric mirrors, remote central locking and 60/40 split rear seating.

There are eight models in all, culminating in the five-door 2-litre SE whose £18,760 tag buys electric sunroof, anti-lock brakes, twin airbags, side airbags, traction control, wood trim, alloy wheels and a clever hard-backed front passenger seat which folds flat into a picnic table or work surface.

All this is calculated to undercut, specification for specification, cars such as Ford's Mondeo and the Vauxhall Vectra. Estate and diesel models are due next year.

Assuredly, they will do nothing to ease the competitive pressures in this key sector of the motoring arena.

In performance terms, the new 626 offers no great advance. At Mazda's proving ground at Miyoshi in Japan, I saw 0 to 30mph in 3.5 seconds and 0 to 60mph in nine seconds from the top, manual-gearbox 136bhp 2-litre, with 4.5 and 11.6 seconds from the automatic version. These are hardly ground-breaking figures, and Mazda's quoted maximum of 130mph was not approachable even on a banked circuit.

MAZDA 626

Prices: £13,960 to £18,760.
Engines: four-cylinder, 90bhp 1.8-litre; 115 and 136bhp 2-litre; five-speed manual or four-speed automatic.
Performance: (manuals only) 1.8; 0 to 60mph, 12.5 secs, top speed 112mph, 37mpg average. 2-litre; 0 to 60 in 9.8 secs, top speed 124mph, 35.6mpg. 2-litre: 0-60, 9 secs, top speed 130mph.

But there was no doubt at all about the improvement in handling. The steering of the old 626 might be described as pleasant enough most of the time, but vague at decisive moments. Hustle the 1980s-designed model into a corner and it throws its weight on to the outside front wheel, the suspension engaging in harsh and noisy fisticuffs with any road roughness while the back-end hints that it fancies an outward-bound course.

Now try the new car: steering is still cushioned, even remote, but it has acquired a responsiveness that boosts confidence while the plunging motion has gone and the suspension absorbs bumps instead of fighting them.

Noise levels, not excessive before, are further subdued. The 136bhp engine sounds and feels unstrained even when approaching its 6,600rpm maximum, and at 70mph in the manual (a creditable 2,600rpm in the automatic), it is barely humming a tune. Wind noise is slight too. If anything is to intrude on motorway conversation it will be road texture, but even the most coarse comes through as just a deep rumble.

This car is going to impress anyone using it as a daily work tool and over long family journeys. If its improvements are soberly presented, they are still real and practical.

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

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Tomorrow's Grand Prix, in Montreal, is the seventh race in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition which offers a £25,000 grand prize to the manager who heads our leaderboard after the European Grand Prix at Jerez, Spain, on October 26. In first position on our leaderboard after the Spanish Grand Prix is N Rowe from Totton, Southampton. His team, What Alesi Bunch!, has 4,696 points.

TO ENTER If you have not yet entered a team into our £40,000 competition use the panel, below right, to make *three selections from each of the four groups* and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK).

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Canadian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the British Grand Prix on July 13. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the French Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, June 26. Your new team must have *three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D*. The first three drivers you select will be your prediction for the British GP bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position after the Canadian Grand Prix on 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number. Lines will open on Wednesday.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE SPANISH GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	What Alesi Bunch!	N Rowe	4696
2	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	4631
3	Tetch-Meisters Racing	B Day	4556
4	Team Julius II	C Gale	4518
5	Aston O	L Ackland	4504
6	Cheats	J Yeo	4499
7	The Chequered Flags	A Cooper	4494
8	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	4483
9	For Front Racing	E Wilkins	4478
10	Team Tifos 1	P Bester	4469
11	John Hunt 8	J Hunt	4467
11	John Hunt 10	J Hunt	4467
13	Tired And Exhausted	P Wilson	4462
14	John Hunt 23	J Hunt	4445
15	Darrvin G P	B Young	4440
16	Watson Boyd	C Watson	4439
17	Greek Gods	D Amastasis	4421
17	Rapide Racing	P Woolley	4421
19	Petunia	Staszkiewicz	4414
20	Geepee 8	C Nicholson	4412
20	Bernie's Boys	W Patterson	4412
22	Rascasse	S Slater	4409
23	Jacques Jaguar	J Roets	4408
24	Sour Mash	R Owers	4402
25	Pirate Moose	G Pau	4395

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

The first column of figures in light type after the names shows the Fantasy Formula One Spanish GP race scores, the second column the total competition points so far

DRIVERS GROUP A

01 D Hill	20	155	07 M Hakkinen	113	637
02 M Schumacher	123	696	08 D Coulthard	116	447
03 J Villeneuve	154	598	09 R Barrichello	37	339
04 E Irvine	101	659	10 H-H Frentzen	115	576
05 J Alesi	130	575	11 J Herbert	125	446
06 G Berger	109	653	12 M Salo	38	589

DRIVERS GROUP B

13 O Panis	159	689	19 G Fisichella	118	516
14 J Verstappen	118	506	20 S Nakano	35	344
15 U Katayama	8	397	21 N Larini/Morb	96	557
16 P Diniz	43	267	22 J Trulli	99	466
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	111	404
18 R Schumacher	48	305	24 V Sospiri	0	0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C			CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D		
25 Williams	30	79	31 Arrows	-20	-93
26 Ferrari	23	130	32 Sauber	22	56
27 McLaren	21	77	33 Tyrrell	6	49
28 Benetton	24	103	34 Minardi	2	46
29 Jordan	-2	25	35 Stewart	4	-14
30 Prost	15	63	36 Lola	0	0

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CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Benz class upheavals

ROAD TEST

Mercedes has sold more than a million C-class models worlwide but now it gets a revamp halfway through its model life. *Michael Scarlett writes.*

The biggest change is the replacement of the old C280's six-cylinder in-line engine with the 2.8-litre V6 first seen in the E-class, while a new 2.4-litre version of the 2.8 V6 replaces the four-cylinder C230, and is predictably labelled the C240.

Many Mercedes owners will take these engines for granted, but they are technically interesting. They have three valves per cylinder, instead of the now-usual four, and two spark plugs per cylinder — both improving exhaust emissions particularly after a cold start. There is also a balancer shaft to help engine smoothness.

Aluminium or magnesium alloys are used instead of iron to save weight. At just under 150kg, the 2.8-litre V6 is 50kg lighter than the straight six it replaces.

The 2.8 V6 engine turns out 197bhp at 5,800rpm (4bhp more than the in-line six it replaces) and 195lb/ft of torque between 3,000 and 4,800rpm; the 2.4 V6 delivers 170bhp at 5,900rpm and 166lb/ft between 3,000 and 5,000rpm.

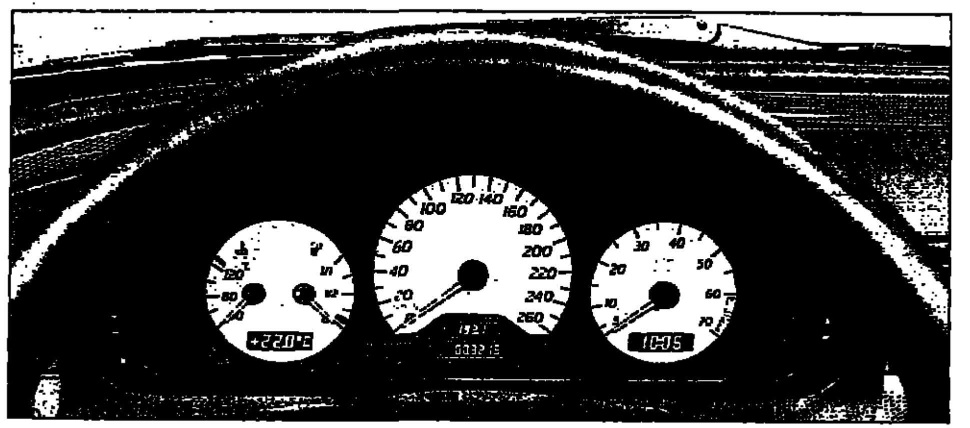
The rest of the engine range is as before: 1.8 and 2-litre, four-cylinder four-valves, the 2.3-litre supercharged four (now also available in C-class estates in some markets, if not Britain), and the two diesels — the 2.2-litre, four-cylinder and the 2.5-litre, turbocharged five-cylinder.

As well as two normal airbags, all C-class models now have side airbags for front occupants as standard. You will need to be observant to spot the new cars when they go on sale in Britain later this month; external changes are limited to body-colour side skirts and bumpers with integral spoilers. Oh, and the grille is slightly restyled.

A number of features new to the "C" were first seen on the E-class and the recently-introduced CLK, including Brake Assist (the Lucas invention which improves panic braking in an emergency stop), the electronic ignition key an anti-theft improvement), and traction control on all except the C180 and the C220 diesel.

Instead of normal service intervals, the C-class's dashboard display warns the driver when to get the car serviced. This uses to an engine sensor that measures oil cleanliness. This idea, similar to one used by BMW many years ago, will aid long-distance drivers who subject their cars to fewer oil-damaging cold starts. It could save them up to 30 per cent on running costs by stretching service intervals to 12,500 miles.

A drive in the two V6s with 5-speed automatic transmission — you won't be able to buy a manual-gearbox V6 in Britain — showed them to be beautifully smooth and responsive, very quiet mechanically with, however, a delightful subdued cry from the engine when revved hard.



Body is much the same, but the dashboard now tells you when to go for a service

NEW C240

Engine: V6 2.4-litre giving 170bhp at 5,900rpm, driving through five-speed auto and rear-wheel drive. No manual option.
Performance: 0 to 60mph in 9.7 seconds; top speed 135mph.
Fuel consumption: 19.8 miles to the gallon in town but 28.5 miles to the gallon average on the European combined cycle.
Price: £27,140 (Classic); £30,260 (Sport and Elegance estates).

FORECOURT

■ BMW's 5-SERIES Touring is a classy, sporty car with generous load-carrying capacity. It looks better than most, is well-built with lots of room inside and retains used values well, reports *CAP Black Book.*

A full service history is a must, though prices tend be higher. The 518 is considered too underpowered, while the four-wheel drive 525iX/SE has an identity crisis. Best buy is the 525SE TDS; a 1993 K-reg automatic with average mileage, could be £15,500.

Even with a full service history in your hands, watch for engine smoke on cars with higher than average mileage. Colour is crucial when buying a BMW: the wrong one sends used prices plummeting, so avoid non-metallics.

■ CITROEN'S BX can be comfortable, while diesel-engined derivatives have a justifiably sound reputation for reliability and longevity. Expect to pay from £3,500 to £4,000 for a 1991 H-reg five-door turbo TGD on average miles. Collapsing seats and torn interiors plague the BX, and servicing and parts are relatively pricey. Cars in bright colours can be hard to find.

SPARE PARTS

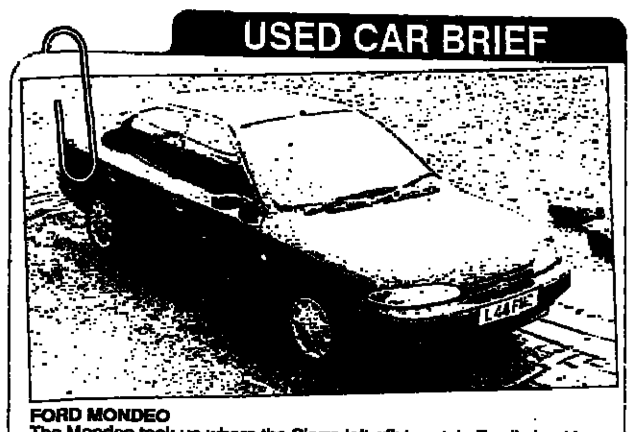
■ WHY DOESN'T Peugeot say what it means? "Summer special" 106 models, badged as Independence, "continue the Peugeot tradition of offering special-edition models high on style and extra equipment but low on driveaway prices". Just say it Peugeot, they are cheaper: a 106 XN Independence comes in at £7.795, a £190 saving, while a 106 XL Independence 5-door diesel at £9,795 means a £220 cut.

■ STRANGE that Peugeot's sister company is not so hidebound. The press release from Citröen comes out with the facts in the second paragraph: new Citröens get extra equipment, £1,000 cashback, two years' free insurance and up to 2,000 free Air Miles. A first-time buyer could take a 1-litre, 50 brake horse power, and charmingly-named, Saxo Mischief with compact disc player at £7,785, while a ZX Temptation comes in at £11,395 with electric front windows, sunroof and door mirrors and sports seats. Limited-edition Xantias also qualify for free air-conditioning, with prices chopped to £11,475 — a saving of more than £2,800.

■ AS IF Vauxhall would let all this price-slashing go on uncontested. The company announced this week zero per cent finance on Vectra, Corsa and Tigra models, though that can include a £750 deposit allowance on Astra, Vectra, Calibra and Frontera Estate, and £500 on Tigra, Corsa and Frontera Sport models.

There is also free insurance for the right drivers on all Fronteras, Corsas and standard Tigra cars. Omegas, Monterey and Sintra models also get free extra two-year/36,000 miles warranty after the end of their first year's cover.

USED CAR BRIEF



FORD MONDEO
The Mondeo took up where the Sierra left off: to retain Ford's lead in the competitive mid-size family and company car sector. An early feather in the Mondeo cap was the 1994 European Car of the Year award, deserved as one of the most rewarding cars in its class to drive, thanks to advice on its development from three-times world motor racing champion Jackie Stewart. Available as hatchback, saloon or estate with 1.6, 1.8, 2-litre and 2.5-litre V6 petrol engines, as well as 1.8-litre turbo diesel.

GOOD NEWS
Is safety first, a priority with the Mondeo. First in its class to get a driver's airbag as standard, other safety pluses include anti-submarining seats and seat-belt grabbers. On better-equipped models, there is also anti-lock braking, and all cars have power steering.

BAD NEWS
For rear-seat passengers where space is cramped. Intrusive motorway noise is also a complaint. Though there are plenty of saloon and hatchback Mondeos for sale, the highly rated but rarer estate version commands a price premium of £500 to £800.

LOOK FOR
The 115 brake horse power 1.8-litre, which is recognised as the best of the bunch. The diesel is a disappointment. Buyers need look for nothing more than LX trim which offers airbag, sunroof, tinted glass, central locking and electric front windows.

AVOID
Ex-fleet or rental cars which might have lived a harsh life and check you are getting what you think you are buying. Ford chopped and changed the range so early Ghias came with air conditioning as standard but this became an option following a 1995 range revamp.

SAFETY
Good rating in the Department of Transports "Choosing Safety" booklet, ranked above average alongside the Mercedes-190 and Volkswagen Passat but ahead of 24 other models, including the Vauxhall Cavalier, Toyoya Carina and BMW 3-series.

INSURANCE
(Cover from AA Insurance 0800-444777) on a 1993 1.8 GLX turbo-diesel costs a 55-year-old professional male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims £154-a-year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male with one year no claims living in South London pays £781, a similar woman £647.

REPLACEMENT PARTS
(Prices including VAT supplied by Glassmatix 01932-823823): Clutch assembly, £90; full exhaust, £308; rear shock absorber, £46; front brakepads, (axle set) £44; alternator, £169; starter motor, £136; radiator, £121.

PRICES
Expect to pay £5,400 for a 1993 K-reg 1.6i LX saloon, £5,900 for a 1993 K-reg 1.8i GLX saloon, £6,400 for a 1993 K-reg 1.8i GLX estate, £8,900 for a 1994 L-reg 2.0i Ghia saloon, £7,000 for a 1994 L-reg 1.8 TD LX saloon and £11,400 for a 2.5 V6 Ghia hatchback.

OVERALL
The Mondeo is one of the few volume cars designed for the mass market that has drawn praise from motoring magazines. The Mondeo's excellent chassis and handling have drawn the acclaim, but more prosaically it is difficult to fault the cars sheer all-round ability.

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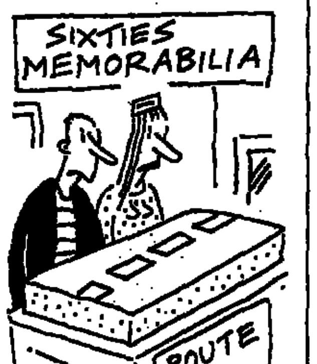

Yamaha's super-scooter, the Majesty, is great in town but not quite up to long distances, says **Paul Myles**

Commuter's fair-weather pal

Finding a new way to work for millions of commuters might now be a Government priority, but there's little choice for the poor daily traveller facing distances of more than 25 miles.

One option, however, may be the new breed of super-scooter, which offers economical and environmentally friendly transport. Super-scooters like Yamaha's new Majesty are masters of mileage, gobbling up distance in an easy, relaxed way.

The secret is their automatic transmission, which uses a V-belt system that changes ratio in a constant unbroken stream. The seamless gearchange system is very like that developed on the old Daf Variomatic car: free from steps and kick-down.

The system changes the gear ratio in proportion to the engine speed, thus making supremely efficient use of the motor's power. On the Majesty, the system is coupled with a gutsy little water-cooled 250cc four-stroke that gets the bike away from traffic lights quickly enough to surprise many bigger machines.

The Majesty sparkles on crowded urban streets, where its blend of power and lightweight flickability make easy work of the traffic. Progress is brisk yet extremely relaxed, with none of the stress usually accompanying city driving.

The power plant is capable of a top speed of around 80mph with a realistic cruising speed about 10mph lower. Economy at these speeds is also impressive, at 60 miles to the gallon or more. On the face of it, this should make the Majesty as well-suited to motorway touring as to urban traffic. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

In trying to build a machine to excel in town, Yamaha has sacrificed motorway prowess. The machine just does not have enough weather protection and high-speed stability to attract commuters who have to use motorways.

Strangely, while the bike keeps most of the rain off — after a three-quarter hour ride you stand a chance of being drier than after a five-minute walk in the rain — the bodywork does a poor job of keeping wind off the rider.

The Majesty's sizeable fairing keeps most rain off the rider, but does not protect sufficiently from winter's cold and buffeting

In comparison with the only other super-scooter to reach our shores, Honda's CN250 — which the company sadly no longer imports — the Majesty might be a better machine through congested roads but cannot compete with the royally appointed CN on high-speed, high-mileage journeys.

The difference is in size. While the CN accommodates a full-grown European male with ease, the Majesty seems to be designed for those standing little more than five feet tall in stockinged feet. At 5ft 9ins, I proved too high in the saddle for protection from wind-buffeting at speed.

This is at odds with Yamaha's own marketing claims for the machine. The company sees the Majesty as an alternative for commuters who want to give up the train or car.

Jeff Turner, Yamaha UK's motorcycle sales director, says: "We are hoping that people will buy this bike instead of a season train ticket. With the extra power and speed potential, the Majesty will suit people travelling around 30 miles into work, which a smaller scooter would be hard pressed to do in comfort."

Yamaha's theory rests on the target commuter spending something more than £2,000 a year on a season ticket. The Majesty's price tag of £3,999 buys two years of travel with a vehicle worth about £2,000 at the end of it.

In practice, I can't see the average punter riding the Majesty in the teeth of a British winter: the weather protection is just not good enough. Only a handful of the top big-bike tourers and, possibly, Honda's CN would tempt even dedicated bikers away from the cosy, if cramped, warmth of a train carriage during our coldest weather.

That makes the Majesty's price seem expensive as summer-only transport, because it would take four years to recoup the alternative train fare — a shame because the little Majesty is a joy to ride around town and, with development, could be improved for the longer trips.

DR DASHBOARD

Can't I still drive to work?

Q **Can New Labour really mean new rail ticket? Or is there some other way I can sensibly get to work before the Government clobbers motorists in the Budget?**

A Depends on where you are and when you need to be in your office. But perhaps you should be examining how you travel to work anyway, for the sake of your children and grandchildren.

Q **Alright for you to say, but you try it. There is no bus service, and when I have to leave home I have to sit in a traffic jam for most of the two miles to the office and then find a parking space.**

A So walk. Or ride a bike. Why sit in the traffic when there are ready-made and cheap ways of getting there? Instead of spending money on a car, buy a decent pair of shoes and do your cardiovascular system a favour at the same time.

Q **I might have expected that from a doctor. What about when it rains?**

A Get wet. Buy a raincoat or an anorak, or an umbrella or something something. People like you are so defeatist.

Q **But why shouldn't I get full use of my car? It is a safe and convenient form of transport.**

A By all means use your car — sensibly. Not every journey needs a car, and cars hate very short journeys in crawling traffic — it does the engine no favours. The Government just wants you to look at your daily needs and plan your journey so that you don't unnecessarily burn fossil fuel, create pollution and congestion. If you want to be stylish and dry, ride a scooter, buy a bubble car. Anything. Just think before you drive.

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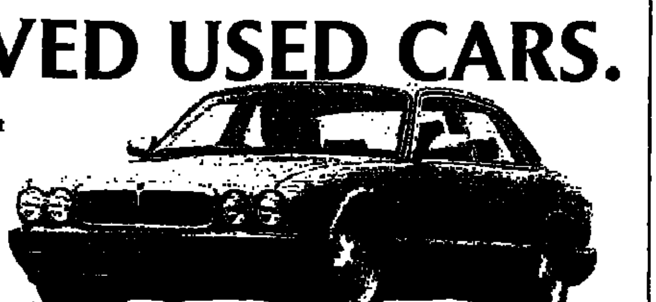

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95M	C220 Elegance Auto air, esr, thr, alarm, r/st	20T £22,995
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94L	C250D Elegance Auto r/st, alarm	40T £19,995
96P	C250D Classic Auto c/c, esr, dcs, r/st	10T £23,995
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94M	E220 Auto met, fca, walnut	38T £20,995
94M	E220 Estate Auto met, esr, r/s, r/st	19T £25,995
96P	E230 Elegance Estate met, auto air con	12T £33,995
92J	280E Auto met, thr, r/st	37T £16,995
96P	E280 Avantgarde met, esr, alloys, r/st	13T £33,995
96P	E280 Avantgarde met, air con, eds, hide	4T £37,995
96P	E320 Elegance met, esr, eds + m	3T £35,995
95N	E320 Coupe 5 Spd Auto met, hide, air, 8h	7T £40,995
94L	S280 met, hide, esr, orth.seat, climate, r/st	44T £28,995
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93L	S500 Coupe met, hide, climate, mem sts, 8h	49T £49,995
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96P	C180 Eleg 5 Spd Auto Azurite blue, a/c, cruise	10T £23,995
96P	C180 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mush cloth, a/c	12T £23,985
96P	C200 Class 5 Spd Auto Midnight, esr, elw	13T £22,995
96N	C200 Eleg Auto Silver, grey cloth, esr, cc, olg	12T £22,995
96P	C200 Eleg Auto Ruby red, black cloth, air con	14T £24,995
96P	C200 Eleg Estate Tourmaline, grey cloth, alloys	16T £26,995
96P	C230 Komp Sport 5 Spd Auto Imperial red, blk	12T £27,995
96P	C250 Turbo Diesel Elegance Auto met	3T £28,995
96P	C280 Elegance 5 Spd Auto Tourmaline green	8T £28,995
96P	C280 Spt 5 Spd Auto Ruby red, hide, a/c, efs	13T £33,995
95M	E200 Estate Auto White, grey cloth, esr, ew	20T £22,995
96P	E200 Estate - new mdl Ruby, mush cloth, esr, r/s	9T £30,995
94L	E220 Auto White, blue cloth, esr, ew, ba, far	32T £18,995
95N	E220 Auto Azurite, grey hide, a/c, efs x 2	32T £24,995
95N	E220 Estate Auto Green black, diesel, hlww	19T £27,995
95M	E220 CAB Almandine red, hide, hlww, anti-theft	10T £37,995
95N	E220 CAB Tourmaline green, mushroom hide	10T £38,995
95N	E220 CAB Black, black hide, a/c, c/c, cd, far	14T £40,995
96P	E230 Eleg 5 Spd Auto Brill. silver, black, a/c	11T £31,995
96P	E230 Eleg 5 Spd Auto Tourmaline, a/c, cruise	11T £31,995
96P	E230 Algarde Auto Amazon grn, blk cloth, a/c	7T £31,995
96P	E230 Eleg Est 5 Spd Auto Tourm, a/c, cruise	13T £33,995
95M	E280 Auto Azurite blue, grey spt cloth, a/c, 8sw	14T £26,995
96P	E280 Algarde 5 Spd Auto Brilliant silver, esr	11T £33,995
96P	E280 Eleg 5 Spd Auto Azurite blue, grey, a/c	10T £34,995
96P	E280 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mush hide, a/c, edsm	5T £37,995
96N	E320 Eleg Auto Green blk, mush hide, a/c, esr	18T £38,995
96P	SL320 Azurite blue, grey hide, rcs, climate	6T £54,995
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97P	C180 Esprit Auto Azurite, esr, music	7T £23,495
97P	C180 Eleg Auto Tourmaline, mush cloth	5T £25,495
96P	C200 Sport Auto Silver, black cloth, esr	9T £24,995
97P	C200 Sport Estate Vivianite, far, ew, cd	7T £27,485
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96P	C220D Classic Auto Silver, black cloth	5T £24,995
97P	C250TD Eleg Auto Silver, black cloth	2T £26,995
95N	E200 Avantgarde Azurite, hide, elm, hlww	17T £27,995
97P	E200 Classic Auto Silver, alloys, esr, far	7T £27,995
95N	E220 SE Auto Azurite, air con, ww, far	28T £24,995
96N	E230 Eleg Auto Smoke, black cloth, esr	4T £28,995
96P	E230 Est Eleg Auto Green black, grey cloth	11T £34,995
97P	E230 Est Algarde Auto Azurite, hide, air, r/s	6T £36,995
96P	E230 Est Eleg Auto Silver, black cloth, air	7T £34,995
94M	E220 Cab Silver, black hide, 8h, hls, cd	16T £37,995
96P	E280 Algarde Green black, hide, eds, c/c	3T £36,995
97P	E280 Algarde Silver, hide, air, AMG alloys	6T £39,995
92K	300CE 24V Almandine, hide, a/c, c/c	53T £20,995
96N	E320 Eleg Green black, hide, a/c, hww	11T £37,995
97P	V230 Ambiente Auto met, hide, air, d/susp	7T £28,995
96N	S280 Azurite, mush hide, esr, 8h, music	10T £39,995
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96N	SL320 96 Mdl Imperial red, hide, 12h, c/c	11T £57,995
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96P	C180T Esprit Auto met, esr, r/st	6T £24,995
96P	C200T met, air, esr, olg, r/st	14T £27,995
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95M	C220 Eleg Auto met, fab, olg, iwm, r/st	24T £23,995
97P	C230 Elegance Auto met, esr, r/st	4T £27,995
97P	C230 Sport Komp met, hide, air, eds, cd	3T £32,995
96P	C250TD Elegance Auto met, esr, s/w, r/st	6T £26,995
97P	C250D Elegance Auto met, r/st	2T £26,995
95N	E200T Auto met, air, r/st	28T £24,995
94L	E220 Auto 15 hole alloys, dhr, r/st	32T £19,995
97P	E230 Classic Auto a/c, far, alloys, r/st	7T £28,995
96N	E230 Elegance Auto met, hide, air, r/st	20T £31,995
96P	E230T Auto met, hide, air, dc, hfs, 8h, mfs, r/st	10T £37,995
91J	260E Auto esr, ew, alloys, hlww, r/st	40T £16,995
92K	300E Auto, met, esr, hlww, alloys, r/st	55T £19,995
94L	E280 Auto met, esr, ew, hlww, cd	30T £25,995
96P	E280 Elegance Auto met, hide, air, r/st	6T £36,995
95M	E320 Auto met, hide, r/st	29T £30,995
93L	E320 Coupe Auto met, hide, air, 8 holes, r/st	43T £32,995
97P	E320 Elegance Auto met, hide, air, r/st	5T £41,995
96P	E320 Elegance Auto met, hide, acc, full bl, r/st	24T £47,995
97P	S280 Auto met, hide, acc, efs, 6 holes, cd	3T £42,995
93K	500SE Auto met, hide, 8 holes, acc, cd	31T £36,995
91H	300SL 24V Auto hide, air, rcs, 8 holes, mbfs	40T £42,995
94L	SL320 Auto met, hide, 8 holes, rcs, spt	34T £47,995
96P	SL320 Auto met, hide, rcs, acc, cd	4T £65,995
94M	S500L Auto met, hide, acc, hls, 8 h, r/st	39T £44,995

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94M	C180 Classic Man White, black, elw, esr, r/c	52T £16,995
94M	C180 Elegance Auto White, black, r/c	25T £19,995
94M	C180 Sport Man Blue black, black, air con, r/c	27T £19,995
96P	C180 Eleg Auto Azurite, grey, a/con, r/c	11T £23,995
96N	C200 Eleg Auto Green blk, grey cloth, a/c, r/c	13T £23,995
96P	C200 Elegance Auto Green black, grey a/c	12T £24,995
96N	C200T Eleg Est Man Grn black, grey cloth	5T £25,995
93L	C220 Elegance Auto Almandine, grey cloth	35T £19,995
96N	C220 Elegance Auto Green blk, hide, a/c, eds	17T £28,995
96N	C280 Elegance Auto Ruby red, blk cloth, a/c	13T £27,995
96N	C280 Eleg Auto Green blk, hide, full spec	14T £33,995
93K	200TE Auto Pearl blue, grey cloth, esr	60T £17,995
94L	E200T Auto White, grey cloth, esr, ew, r/s	47T £19,995
95N	E200 SE Auto Blue black, grey cloth	11T £21,995
95N	E200T Classic Auto Silver, black, r/s, esr	9T £31,995
93L	E220 Auto Blue black, grey cloth, ww, r/c	30T £19,995
94L	E220 Coupe Auto Pearl blue, grey cloth	31T £25,995
96P	E220 Cab Tourmaline, mush hide, good spec	11T £41,995
96P	E280 Eleg Green black, grey cloth, a/c, r/c	9T £34,995
91J	500E Auto Blue black, grey, air con,	75T £27,995
95N	S280 Smoke silver, mushroom hide, esr	18T £34,995
95N	S280 Azurite, mushroom hide, esr, sw	16T £36,995
94M	SL280 Onyx, grey hide, rcs, 8 holes, r/st	25T £48,995
95N	SL280 Imperial red, black hide, r/c, 8 holes	15T £51,995
96P	S320 Blue black, black hide, c/c, efs	11T £47,995
94L	300SE Silver, grey hide, c/c, 8 holes	51T £33,995
92J	400SE Pearl grey, grey hide, good spec	68T £30,995
95N	S500L Azurite, mushroom hide, full spec	19T £59,995
95N	S500 Coupe Azurite, grey hide, ww	22T £62,995
95N	SL60 AMG Imperial red, black hide, full spec	9T £76,995
96N	S600 Limo Azurite, grey hide, full spec	3T £79,995
97P	CL500 Blue black, mushroom hide	5T £79,995

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COMPETITION UPDATE

Nick Lander: amazed at poor foreign driving

Company men take off at Gatwick

A COMPANY boss with a keen interest in road safety led the way in the latest heats of *The Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition, *Tony Dawe writes.*

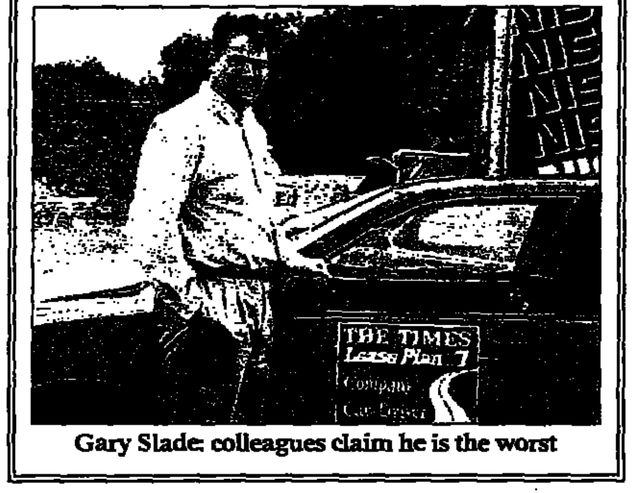
Nick Lander, managing director of Howard Pumps of Eastbourne, Sussex, put into practice what he preaches by winning the second of two heats staged near Gatwick Airport.

He coped well with the braking test, fault-finding and route-planning exercises and struggled only on the manouvering test when he twice lost the ball balanced in a large saucer on the bonnet of the competition's Nissan Primera SRi.

He says, "I am always amazed when abroad at the poor standard of driving. Competitions like this help to ensure we do better in this country."

Gary Slade, a senior account director for the Sitel Corporation, of Kingston upon Thames, was amazed at his success in the first heat. "My colleagues claim I am the most dangerous driver on the fleet," he joked. "But I must have driven carefully on the road test for I sent my co-driver to sleep."

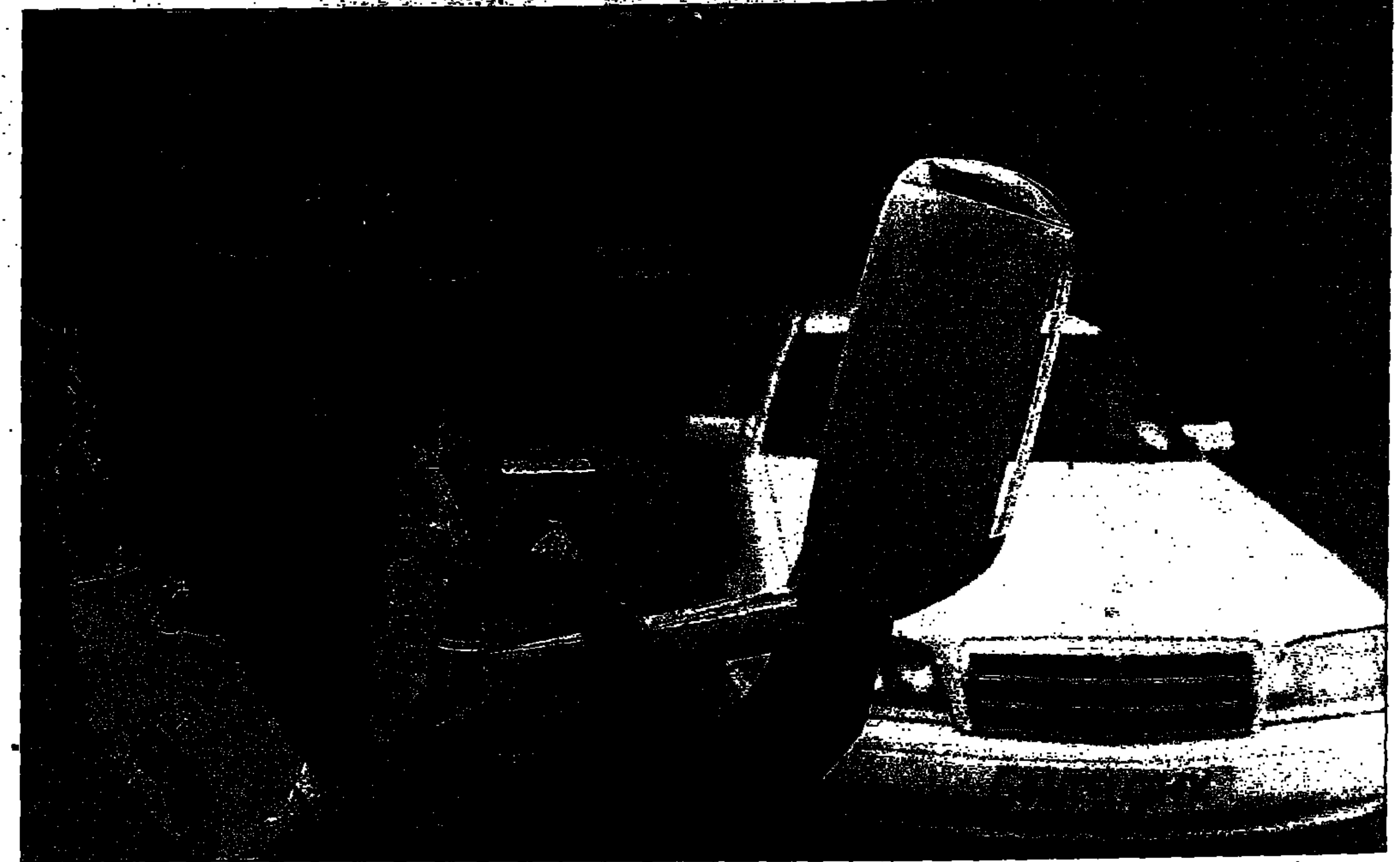
Gary should be well rested for the finals at the Silverstone Driving Centre on July 4, for he will be flying back from holiday in Turkey that morning.



Gary Slade: colleagues claim he is the worst

Helen Mound on cosmetics sellers who get a big motor out of a lot of compacts

Pink car's just a Merc of the job



ROLAND LEON

Yvonne Williams with her C180 Elegance, worth around £21,000, which will soon be replaced by an SL sports with a £58,000 price tag

Government transport supremo John Prescott would turn in his tube train at the idea, but the reward for a year of hard work for Yvonne Williams is just about as politically incorrect as they come: a pink Mercedes.

The gleaming C180 Elegance, worth around £21,000, stands in her drive — but not for long because it will soon be replaced by an SL sports with a price tag nearer to £58,000.

Yvonne works for Mary Kay Ash, a multi-millionairess who launched a cosmetics empire 34 years ago in Dallas, Texas. Yvonne, 40, is one of 475,000 women worldwide who sell Mary Kay cosmetics to 23 million customers, turning over £1.8 billion annually. For the best saleswomen, the bonuses are handsome, ranging from diamond rings to new cars — but always in the company's trademark pink.

"How many people can say their boss pays them in pink Mercs — and just for selling lipsticks and powder?" says the sales director who lives in Worcestershire. "I love the colour. After all it's different and it is the company's trademark."

In the United States, more than 8,000 of the company's top earners have been given a pink Mary Kay Cadillac. Here Yvonne was the first of six top-selling directors to be given a pink Mercedes-Benz.

The choice of a Mercedes is no accident, perceived as prestigious and, in delicate pink, feminine. It is the perfect middle-management transport: safe and solid, not too quick — with a 0 to 60mph time of 11.2 seconds and top speed of 120mph — and not too thirsty — offering about 27 miles to the gallon on average. But it is aspirational, the kind of reward seen by other employees who join the company.

What of the SL though? That transcends the commonsense choice of the grey-suit manager and becomes a dream. Even in basic 2.8-litre format, this is a car that sprints to 60mph in 9.5 seconds and on to a potential 140mph. Forget fuel economy because that isn't an issue when you drive a car which other motorists will drool over.

Thanks to those level-headed chaps in Stuttgart though, the SL is still sensible sporting transport with a decent-sized boot and crash-worthiness ratings which mean there is a good chance the mirror in a woman's powder compact will escape unscathed in a crash.

No wonder the Mary Kay girls work their sheer ten-denier tights off for their "rewards".

Angela Humphries, 34, another proud owner of a pink Mary Kay Mercedes-Benz C180 and waiting for her SL says: "The C-class Elegance is fantastic, very luxurious. It has all the electric features and I think it looks the part for this business. All my clients seem to like it."

A pink Mercedes also turns out to be good for business, simply because it can be a great conversation starter.

"I just rolled up at a hairdresser's near my new home and within minutes I'd made contact with several potential clients," says Angela.

Mary Kay cosmetics aren't available in the shops, the process of selling is a franchise system, selling to family and friends at private parties, a bit like the indefatigable concept pioneered by Tupperware.

Consultants who achieve £150,000 worth of sales in six months — relatively easy if like Yvonne they've recruited 12 other consultants whose sales are subsequently accredited to her — start qualifying for their Mercedes.

Mary Kay Ash, who is in her 90s, is America's answer to Dame Barbara Cartland, famous for wearing pink lace dresses, being chauffeur-driven in a pink Cadillac limousine and living in a huge pink mansion, with, among many other rooms, 11 pink bathrooms. Her maxim, known as the Mary-Kay-way, is: "God first, family second, career third."

She strongly opposes women sporting "masculine haircuts" and wearing "slacks on the job". In true Dame Barbara spirit, Ms Kay believes: "Women were made feminine for a reason and we should strive to maintain our femininity."

Don't you love her already? Nevertheless, her army of cosmetics consultants are big earners, which might cause jealousy at home. But Yvonne says: "My partner isn't intimidated by my success. He's seen the rewards on offer in this business and although he complains about the Mercedes being pink, he's proud of what I've achieved."

Both Yvonne and Angela say they have been motivated by the success of their American colleagues where nearly 60 employees are millionaires, with garages full of Pink Cadillacs, while the business has more $50,000-plus women earners than any other.

In countries such as Russia and Thailand, the consultants are a little more discreet with their rewards, for fear of criminal attention. However, the cosmetics are sold in 25 countries from Sweden to New Zealand and this year sees the launch of Mary Kay in the Czech Republic.

Presumably the four-wheeled gifts for the highest achievers there will be pink . . . Skodas.

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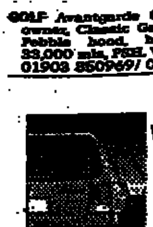

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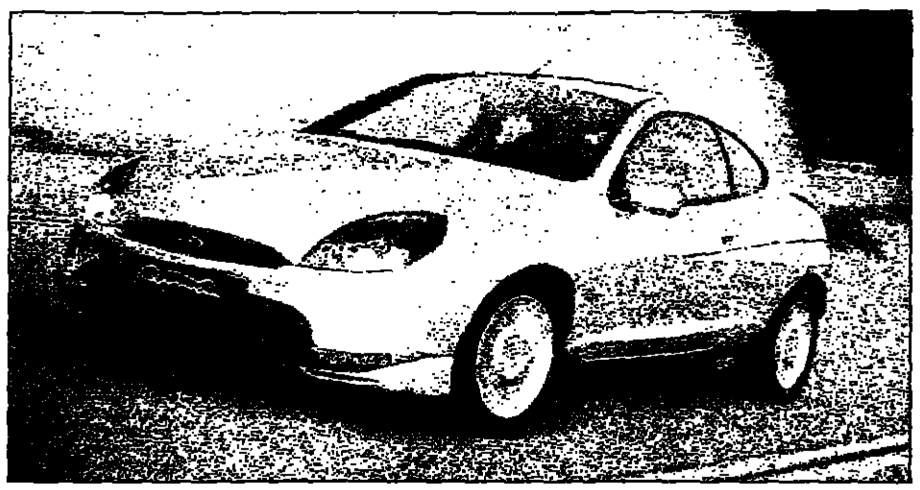
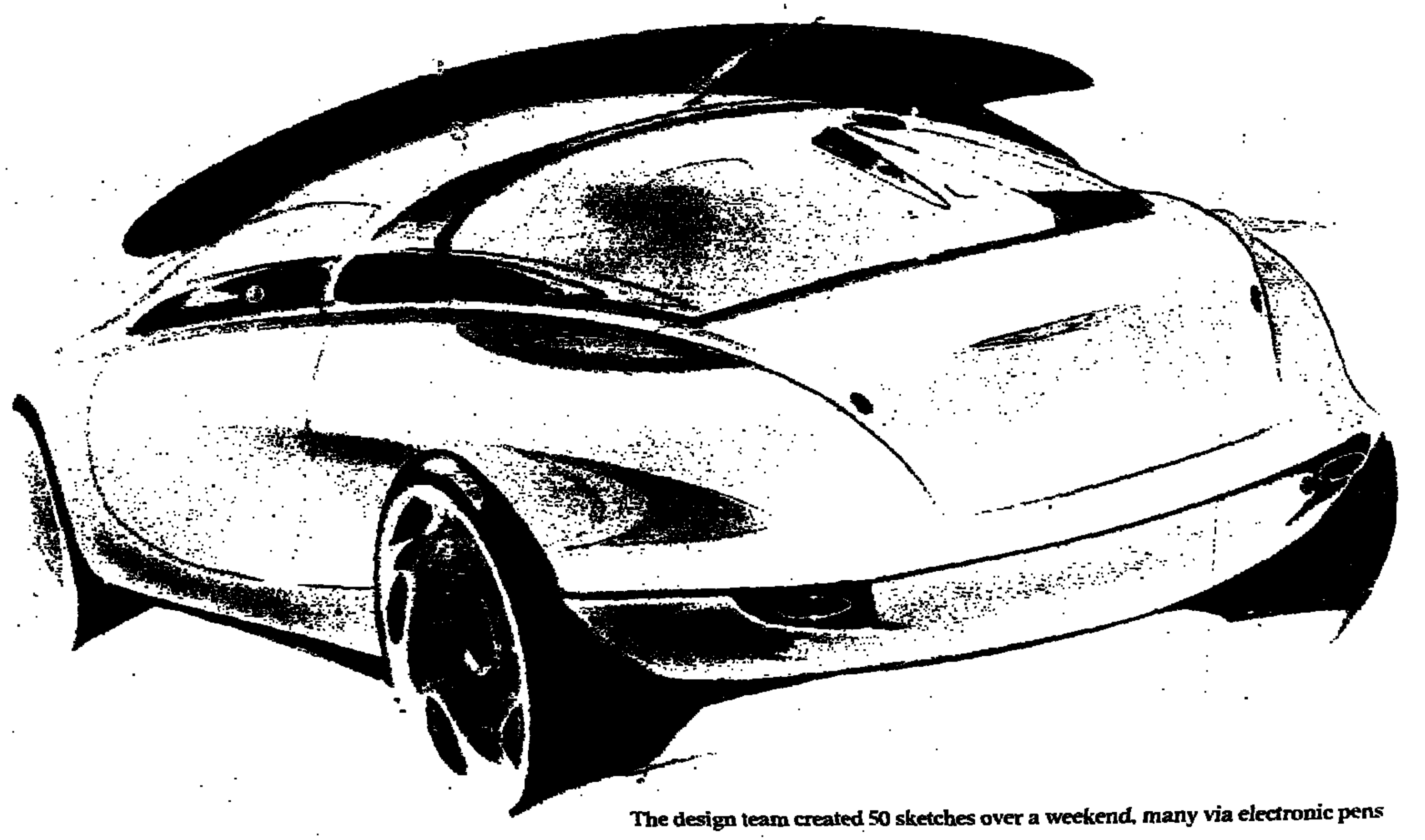
It's goodbye to the drawing board: **Stuart Birch** on Ford's first car wholly designed on a supercomputer

Clever mouse virtually gives birth to Puma


Straight off the grid: the coupé took 135 days from first sketch to final approval


The design team created 50 sketches over a weekend, many via electronic pens

It may have taken God seven days to create the world, but in terms of new car creation, Ford has done well with its *new Puma coupé*: 135 days *from* first sketch to design approval. And *it is all down to the miracle of* computer power.

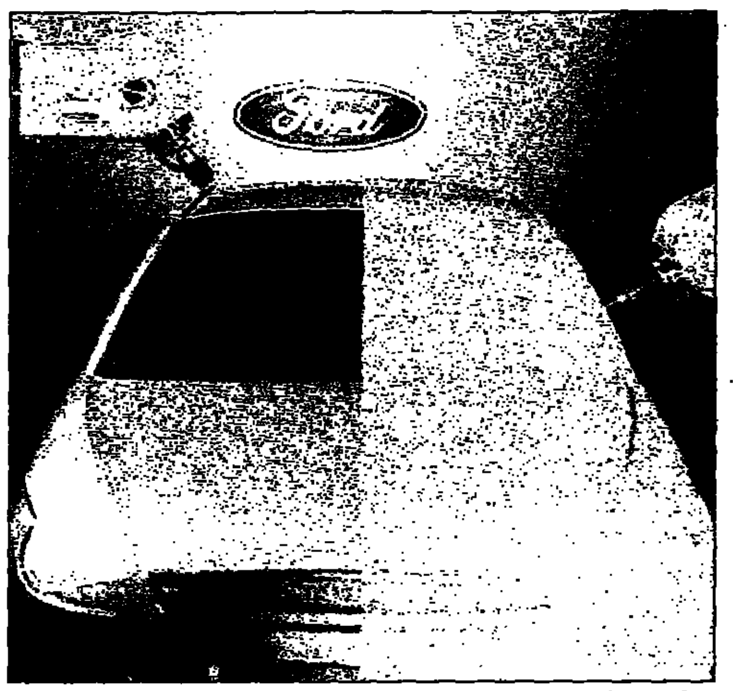
That power is such that Ford *says, given the chance, it could* compute the returns of every UK taxpayer — 30 *million* — in fewer than ten minutes. The company's Triton computer can deal with the *phenomenal number of calculations* needed for a frontal crash *simulation* in just 15 minutes.

The Puma is a significant car for Ford, the first designed completely *on computer, says Claude Lobo,* director of design at the company's small and medium vehicle centre which is based both in Britain and Germany. "We can build a virtual *vehicle on computer," he says,* "covering every aspect from design to crash testing, from ride and handling to interior packaging."

In future, physical prototypes *will primarily be used just to verify* computer work. Ford reckons the computer technology used in its design process is now ahead of every other car manufacturer. It *has spent heavily on computer*-aided industrial design but is confident that, overall, it will save time and money. "It also allows designers greater freedom to ex*press their creative talents and to* make changes in their designs easily and quickly," adds Lobo.

Late in 1993, the company decided it needed a new small coupé *based on the Fiesta platform.* The design team was asked for ideas and over a weekend came up with 50, some drawn with pen and paper, many created via an elec*tronic pen* on a *pressure-sensitive* pad. Some of the designers used their powerful workstations — each with a processing capability equivalent to about 15 personal comput*ers — at home.*

The 50 designs were reduced to six and turned into three-dimensional mathematical data models on computer, with aerodynamics, *crashworthiness, cooling and body* stiffness assessed. Designers and engineers worked together from the start, allowing technology and aesthetics to be quickly modified and design development time to be cut. The six designs were pruned to two and animations produced. Ford says it has more animation processing capacity than Disney used for its film, *Toy Story.*


Ford used computer-driven milling machines to build models

Ford also uses video compositing, which takes the pre-computed animation and places it in a "real world scenario". So a showroom can be videotaped with actors walking around a turntable to evaluate a vehicle — even though it is not physically present. This video sequence is mixed with pre-com*puted animations of a car* rotating on a turntable and then projected through a high-definition television system to be watched by an invited audience, who give their opinions.

Traditionally, that has been done at "clinics" with the real car on show. Now that is unnecessary. Using computer animation, several clinics can be held on the same day *in different countries.*

But creating a three-dimensional model remains a vital element of the design process, says Lobo. "I don't not think we will ever reach the stage of not having a physical model to evaluate before giving the final go-ahead for a design. We live and function in a three-dimensional world. Any good designer needs to relate to a design as it actually exists as a solid object."

At Ford though, even the creation of that solid model has changed — again thanks to computers. Its design centres in Dunton, Essex, and Merkenich near Cologne in Germany, have been equipped with a computer-driven, five-axis milling machine. Ford believes they are the most advanced in the automotive industry. Once the Puma design on computer was close *to maturity, the data could be* fed to the milling machine, which produced a highly accurate physical full-scale model.

Material used by the machine *may be clay, foam or synthetic* wood. Operating with the dexterity of a surgeon, *it can even take the* computer-generated data to create a tiny, Dinky-sized Puma less than 10cm long.

Because Ford's design centres are *linked by the company's* "electronic umbrella" communications system, a design created on computer in Essex can be sent electronically to any other Ford design centre, *including those in America,* Japan and Australia.

But a concern with all this computerisation is that cars might become soulless lumps of machinery, *like refrigerators or cookers.* Lobo is well aware of the danger.

"Technology is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Car design is not just about hitting keys on a computer keyboard. Technology is simply a tool. It does not replace the creativity and innovation of the *designer or modeller. Design is* about emotion, passion and spirit. The role of design technology should be to help develop these human traits to increasingly high levels — *not replace them.*"

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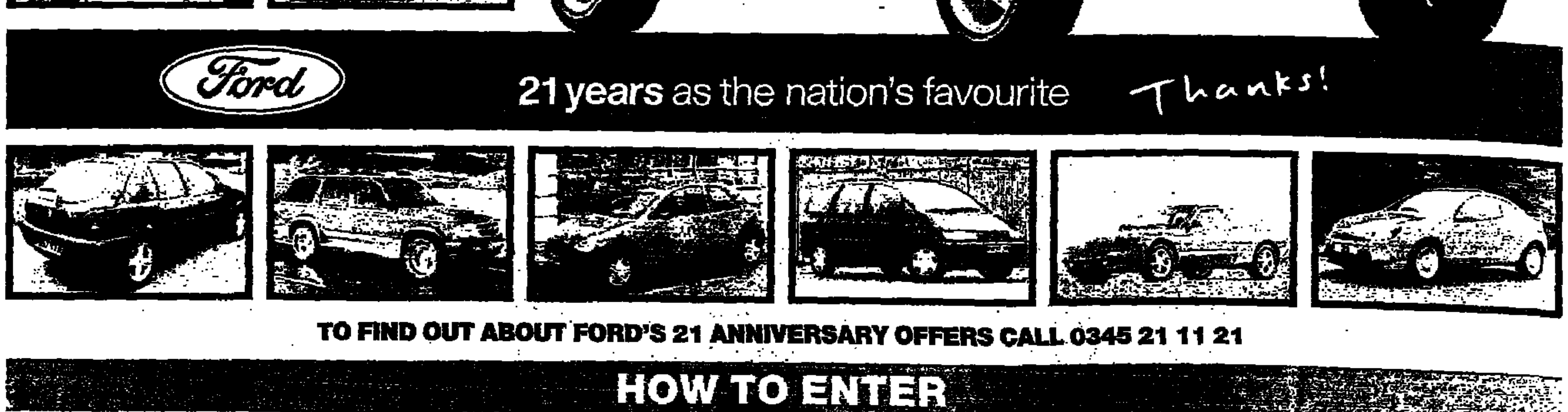

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